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# FPC ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022-2023

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First Presbyterian Church Tacoma



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023

Fellowship Hall

## Contents

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Agenda .....                         | 4  |
| Part I .....                         | 4  |
| Part II .....                        | 4  |
| In Memoriam .....                    | 5  |
| Letter from Pastor Eric .....        | 6  |
| IN, UP, OUT Highlights .....         | 8  |
| Worship Ministry .....               | 11 |
| Minister of Worship .....            | 11 |
| Worship Assistant .....              | 12 |
| Lindsey Bell Choir Program .....     | 12 |
| Pastoral Care Ministries .....       | 13 |
| Visitation .....                     | 13 |
| Deacons .....                        | 15 |
| Christian Education Ministries ..... | 17 |
| Kids' Ministry .....                 | 17 |
| Youth Ministry .....                 | 19 |
| First Presbyterian Preschool .....   | 21 |
| Additional Ministries .....          | 23 |
| Missions .....                       | 23 |
| Women's Bible Study .....            | 25 |
| Ladies Fellowship .....              | 25 |
| The Gathering .....                  | 26 |
| MOPS .....                           | 27 |
| Camp McCullough .....                | 28 |
| Greeter Ministry Team .....          | 30 |
| Prime Timers .....                   | 31 |
| Membership Report .....              | 32 |
| Annual Congregational Meeting .....  | 33 |
| June 12, 2022 .....                  | 33 |
| Congregational Meeting .....         | 35 |
| November 27, 2022 .....              | 35 |
| Congregational Meeting .....         | 36 |

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| February 26, 2023 .....      | 36 |
| Budget Overview.....         | 38 |
| Church .....                 | 38 |
| Preschool.....               | 39 |
| Camp .....                   | 40 |
| Election of Officers.....    | 41 |
| Deacon .....                 | 41 |
| Pastor's Terms of Call ..... | 42 |
| Staff .....                  | 43 |

## Agenda

### First Presbyterian Church Tacoma Agenda for Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 11th - Fellowship Hall

Worship Song, Leader Ian Martinez

#### Part I

Regular Meeting of the Congregation

Call to Order

Opening Prayer (Barb Gehrett)

In Memoriam (Kathy Hawkins)

Receiving of the Annual Report (Eric Jacobsen)

Mission / Ministry Highlights – UP, IN, OUT (Eric Jacobsen)

Camp McCullough Update (Rory Connally)

Receiving the 2022-23 Budget (Aaron Byers)

#### Part II

Meeting of the Corporation

Approval of Minutes

Annual Congregational Meeting (6/12/22)

Congregational Meeting (11/27/22)

Special Congregational Meeting (2/26/23)

Election of Officers (Barb Gehrett)

#### **Election of Elders**

Anna Heath (2nd term)

#### **Election of Deacons**

Stephanie Fraser

#### **Election of Trustees**

John Gray

Tim Kleefeld (renewal)

#### **Election of Nominating Committee**

Ken Brownlee (2nd term)

Andrew Pope (2nd term)

Pastor's Terms of Call (Tim Kleefeld)

Closing Prayer (Rory Connally)

## In Memoriam

### In Memoriam

(June 1, 2022, through June 7, 2023)

#### 2022

*Mary Eklund*, born June 20, 1949, member since 1975, died May 22, 2022

*David Brose*, born January 4, 1931, member since 1970, died August 31, 2022

#### 2023

*Dolly Crosta*, born October 29, 1925, member since 1970, died February 26, 2023

*Elizabeth Dasef*, born September 13, 1981, member since 2017, died on April 24, 2023

*Jewell Holsinger*, born June 4, 1928, member since 1975, died April 18, 2023

*Matt Pickard*, born June 5, 1953, member since 2000, died June 6, 2023

#### *Friends of the Church*

*Doug Risser*, born May 21, 1960, died August 7, 2022

*Rhoda Pappajohn*, born January 5, 1943, died March 16, 2023

*Roselyne Wahlgren*, born September 19, 1948, died March 25, 2023

*Reverend Earl Palmer*, born November 26, 1931, died April 25, 2023

## Letter from Pastor Eric

Dear Friends and Partners in Ministry,

Well, I think I can finally say that we are officially done with the pandemic. Although Covid is still a threat and we need to be sensitive to people in high-risk categories, I'm relieved to no longer be worried about masking and social distancing for our general population. The pandemic is over, but it has changed us significantly and it has impacted my thinking on a few important issues.

One way the pandemic has impacted my thinking is that it has changed my understanding of what success looks like in the church. Some have compared the pandemic to a storm blowing through a stand of trees. As the wind blows leaves fall off trees that are not firmly attached, so also the pandemic blew away some Sunday morning attendees that were not firmly attached to this body.

During the pandemic some folks found their way to other churches that were a better fit for their gifts and callings. Some shifted from in person attendance to online worship for health concerns. And others stopped coming for good reasons that have not been made evident to me yet. I'm fine with each of these possible reasons that someone may no longer be attending FPC in person since the pandemic. And I continue to seek ways to encourage and bless that fall into one of these categories.

But, it needs also to be said, that for some people, the pandemic revealed some significant discipleship deficiencies. For some, when participating in church life became inconvenient or less enjoyable it led to a complete withdrawal from church attendance and regular engagement with the FPC community. It suggested the possibility that for some attending worship services was predicated on comfort and/or enjoyment more than as an expression of discipleship. Although, I don't know all of the stories behind these instances of disengagement and want to learn more. I must say that this tendency has been disappointing to me.

The upshot of all of this is that since the pandemic, I have come to realize that success in the church has more to do with discipleship than sheer numbers. I used to get really excited to see our sanctuary full on Easter Sunday or on Christmas Eve. I still am encouraged to see visitors at our church who can hear the gospel on any Sunday. But now, a full church on Easter doesn't excite me the way it used to. I am more encouraged to know that someone has started the discipline of a daily quiet time, joined a small group, or has signed up to be a Sunday School teacher or to host coffee hour. I would rather see our sanctuary half full of people who are committed to growing as disciples of Jesus than to see it completely full of people who are just coming to hear good music or an inspiring sermon.

This is why I am especially excited about having completed our first year of the discipleship rhythms. I truly believe that mature disciples of Jesus will be constantly growing up in their relationship with God, in with their relationships within the family of faith, and out in their service to others and their mission field. You can read more about the exciting things that have been happening with these rhythms in the SLT report that is also part of the annual report.

I want to also add that the Covid storm we've all experienced not only blew some people away from our church, it also seems to have blown a number of people in. Over this past year, we have seen a steady stream of visitors to FPC of a variety of ages and backgrounds. And 31 of those visitors have become full covenant partners since our June meeting last year. It has been really fun to get to know these new folks who are serious about discipleship and really jumping in with our congregational life.

It feels like we have been going through some extraordinary events these past few years. But when you look at the whole span of what God has been doing in and through His church, it helps put these things in perspective. This past Summer, I used my study leave to do some reading on the early church. And what I discovered was that during the first three centuries of its existence, the church faced many more trying circumstances than we have seen in our lifetime. And God used those trying circumstances to form incredibly mature disciples and to grow the church in extraordinary ways. I'm looking forward to seeing the fruit that God will bring about from the challenging years we have recently experienced.

Blessings,



Eric Jacobsen

## IN, UP, OUT Highlights

For FPC's Rhythms of Discipleship

Fall 2022-Spring 2023

Created by: The Senior Leadership Team

The inaugural year of FPC's Rhythms of Discipleship has been a beautiful combination of new events and simplifying foundational practices. In each season, IN, UP, & OUT, we have challenged our congregation to build practices in their lives that would help them grow as disciples of Christ. Below are some highlights from each of our seasons.

### IN

During the months of August - November we focused on relationships with each other in the church. The IN challenge was to **strengthen & expand healthy relationships in our family of faith**. We hosted an Empty Chair challenge where we encouraged everyone to fill a chair by inviting someone to dinner, lunch, or out for coffee and then to send us a picture.

We kicked off the IN season with Family Camp at Camp McCullough. This annual event always offers an amazing opportunity for a large number of our members to meet each other and develop deeper relationships with each other through activities & conversations. This was our largest family camp to date, with approximately 170 people in attendance, including newcomers.

Another highlight of the season was Dinners for Eight. Over 45 people signed up to participate and joined a group of eight to share dinners in homes over the course of 3 months. Nearly all groups finished the rotation, and several groups made the decision to stay together as a small group and continue meeting together.

The Gathering kicked off once again in the fall of 2022 after a Covid break, welcoming back women between the ages of 18-55, and Prime Timers began to regularly schedule their dinner & game nights. Many other Bible studies, men's groups, and prayer teams took this IN season invitation to start meeting regularly in-person once again.

The church staff and Elders reached out to our "lost sheep" during this season - those who hadn't been at church recently. We made personal phone calls to check in on these folks and encouraged them to join us again. Pastor Eric also scheduled quarterly Membership Exploration meetings to regularly invite new attendees to join the church.

### UP

The UP Season was rung in on the first Sunday of Advent with a Family Advent event, making wreaths in South Chapel. The challenge presented for the UP season was **to do one thing to intentionally grow in their quiet time with God - through time in God's word, prayer, or another spiritual discipline**.



We spent a few weeks in November with a sermon series focused on spiritual formation. Pastor Eric preached on some of the different ways we learn to trust in the trustworthiness of God. He especially highlighted the spiritual discipline of trusting God with our finances when we give to the church - taking something that they were already doing and strengthening the foundation under it.

The UP season was overseen by a thoughtful UP Team. Sabrina Sherwood graciously created Advent guides, playlists and shared at Adult Sunday School. Carol Heath organized a 5-month Women's Bible Study on the Trinity (Jan-May). Betty McCartney assembled a Prayer Team to serve during the worship services starting in January, and Bob Wagner & Dan O'Connor contributed to the UP Challenge and its content.

Another highlight of the UP season was the creation of many small groups. Dozens of families and individuals reached out to be connected into small groups. There are five new social small groups comprised of new families, former Dinner for Eight groups, singles, and many young couples! Several small group Bible studies, prayer groups, and book clubs have also started meeting since January. It's been refreshing to see our people excited to reconnect with each other.

A few other meaningful parts of the UP season were the High School Confirmation class, the Prayer Team offering prayer during services, a beautiful Worship Night of songs & prayer, and encouraging testimonies during the service by those who took the UP-season challenge. We were all inspired by each of these efforts.

## OUT

**Our 2023 OUT challenge includes two parts:**

- **Pray daily: "Father, help me to see others through your eyes. Jesus, show me how you want me to serve you inside and outside the church, and teach me to be a good neighbor. Spirit, empower me to do whatever it is you are calling me to."**
- **Take one intentional step forward in building a relationship with a neighbor. (e.g., inviting a neighbor over for dinner, helping with a house project, borrowing a cup of sugar, etc.)**

We began our OUT season with a volunteer appreciation dinner, recognizing the critical role of volunteers at FPC. Around 75 people were in attendance. In our eNews, we have been highlighting some of our volunteers as well as volunteer needs. We are asking our whole congregation to fill out "We Serve" forms, letting us know how they are interested in volunteering.

At the beginning of Holy Week, we installed Stations in the Street posters on the exterior of the building. We encouraged our congregation to interact with these, but we also hoped they would pique the interest of our neighbors, which seems to have been the case. We even received an email from a neighborhood employee saying how much they enjoyed looking at them on their way to and from work each day.

Pastor Eric's 11-week Community Craft workshop was very OUT focused as it is designed to help members of our community learn how to engage in our neighborhood around the church. This year we had 16 people participate in the workshop and 3 return from last year's workshop as leaders. On

a related note, our church and our community both benefit from Eric's leadership of the Stadium District Association.

We have an increased number of attendees who live in our community, many of whom can regularly be seen walking the neighborhood and frequenting our local businesses. Several of them have students at Stadium High School.

Our Stadium Home, the quarterly neighborhood trash pickup, began as a result of last year's Community Craft workshop. It is still largely organized and staffed by members of our congregation (and funded in part by FPC) but now falls under the Stadium District Association. Not only do these events allow us to serve our neighborhood, but they also provide ways for us to connect with our neighbors and for our neighbors to connect with each other. Our February event, which Anthem Coffee helped host and promote, saw a large increase in neighborhood volunteers and felt like a true community event. We even had one participant begin attending our church regularly as a result of this event.

We are looking for ways to meet the needs of our new neighbors at Merrill Gardens. We invited them to our Easter service, Ladies' Fellowship, and Prime Timers - and several attended. Walt and Gretchen Erhardt are leading a 6-week Bible study there, and in June, Kathy Hawkins and Jennifer Rich will begin offering communion to their residents on a monthly basis.

We have been using the OUT season to highlight church-supported ministries. During Adult Sunday School, representatives from six different ministries gave presentations about their work. We are especially focusing on The Coffee Oasis. A member of their staff shared a Minute for Mission in addition to doing a Sunday School presentation. We are also collecting items for their new drop-in center. This summer we will be hosting a neighborhood garage sale, mainly as a community event, but some proceeds will go to The Coffee Oasis.

Our youth are involved in OUT activities too! They will be serving on the youth group's annual mission trip to Gleanings For the Hungry, and we commissioned them to work at Camp McCullough and VBS, which reach hundreds of kids during the summer.

Two other events that fit into our OUT season were the Kingdom Come Prayer and Worship evening and our annual Missions Sunday.

## Worship Ministry

### Minister of Worship

The worship ministry has eagerly participated in our Rhythms of Discipleship focus at FPC.

**UP-** We have as our primary focus the role of leading our congregation into the presence of the Lord and expressing our adoration and dependence on Him in each worship service.

**OUT-** In addition to our Sunday morning services which attract visitors, the worship ministry also presents outreach events to our community, such as our Christmas Concert, the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, as well as Good Friday, and Easter.

**IN-** The Chancel Choir is a caring family that spends significant rehearsal time in prayer for one another and for the needs of those in our congregation. There is transparency in the sharing of prayer requests and mutual love and support as those requests are presented to the Father. 2022 – 2023 was an exciting year as the Chancel Choir was allowed to resume rehearsals and ministry. This has been a time of significant ministry to those within the choir as well as to our congregation and those attending our events.

I appreciate the thoughtful and kind leadership of Jon Hillstead with our worship band. Thank you, Jon, for your important contribution to the worship at FPC. You lead us, along with our wonderful players and musicians, in every Sunday morning worship service, as well as special events such as our Christmas Candlelight Service.

Our handbell choirs have engaged in another meaningful year of ministry in church, in Tacoma cultural centers, and in the homes of our parishioners who are unable to attend church in person. Thank you, Daniel Heath, for your heart for ministry in the lives of our ringers, our congregation, and our city!

Two more wonderful people whose contributions are integral to the worship of our church are our organist, Patrice Barnett, and our pianist, Geoff Rich. They are foundational to all the music presented to the Lord in our services and special events. You are greatly loved and appreciated!

Another highlight of this past year has been the launching of our Children's Choir, led by Lily Rich. Their inaugural event was the Children's Christmas Pageant. They also made Palm Sunday a time of special celebration. We are grateful for this new ministry under Lily's wonderful direction.

We are so grateful for the crucial ministry of the AV ministry. Where would we be without sound reinforcement and media screen operations in our meetings? We thank God for the faithful service and gracious spirit of servanthood from Steve Richards, Ian Martinez, Johny Sherwood, Casey Cleary, Aaron Byers, and Ken McCullough.

Finally, we thank Andrew Pope and the ushers for hosting our Sunday mornings and special events. Your welcoming presence, kind smiles, and efficient service add stability and security to our congregation. You are deeply appreciated.

I'm grateful to the Lord for the more than 11 years I've had the privilege of serving this congregation. May God continue to honor His Son through the worship ministries at FPC.

Warmly,  
Daniel Perrin, Minister of Worship

## Worship Assistant

This past year, First Pres embarked on an amazing focus of IN, OUT and UP. Hymns and songs of faith contain those same focuses, both intentionally and unintentionally. This coming year will be a continuation of what the praise teams focus has been; to provide a meaningful worship preparation time, with songs that connect us to God, to ourselves, and others. To inspire and push us to think, ponder, and act based on how our faith moves us in each of those relationships.

As we look forward to this next year, may our focus on UP remind us of how much God loves and desires to be with us. As we focus on IN may we find us loving ourselves and this faith community as much as God loves us and may our focus on OUT allow us to love our neighbor as ourselves with joyful openness to all we encounter.

Grace and Peace,

Jon Hillstead

## Lindsey Bell Choir Program

The Lindsey Bell Program consists of primarily youth members, split between two choirs. These two choirs are the Chapel Choir, designed for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, and the Lindsey Choir, designed for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. The Bell Program has 3 primary ministry components. First and foremost, we are called to assist in leading the congregation in worship. This is truly one of the highest honors bestowed upon us, and is an honor not lost on our youth. Our second focus is the ministry unto the ringers themselves. We have several children in the choir whose main connection to a church, let alone First Pres, is through this bell choir. This connection has opened the door to the sharing of the gospel, and spiritual growth in those that might not otherwise have that opportunity. Our third ministry focus is to that of the homebound members of the church. Few things are as precious as blessing one of our dear church members by bringing the music of the bell choir to their residence. This also connects our youth to our older members in ways that simply don't otherwise exist.

This 2022-2023 year has been truly special. Both choirs are extremely talented, and I am very excited to have many of the Chapel ringers be "promoted" into the Lindsey Choir. This next year will be exciting.

One of my bigger challenges in this ministry is still consistent participation. However, I recognize that this is not a unique challenge to this ministry, as the Church as a whole suffers from this. There is a lot of competition for people's time, and many families choose sports or other activities to round out their social calendar.

In closing, leading this ministry is truly an honor. We have big plans for this next season, and we look forward to leading our congregation in worship, as well as other believers at other Churches in the Fall.

Daniel J. Heath, Lindsey Bell Program Director

## Pastoral Care Ministries

### Visitation

Wow! It is over. Fourteen- and one-half years of service as visitation minister at First Pres have come to an end. What an honor it has been, and how I will miss you all!

Since our last annual report, two changes have been made in the rhythm of activities. The biggest one is that hospitals finally allowed surgical waiting room visits. This is something that I have done with many First Pres families if they want: sitting with them as they wait for their loved one's surgery to finish. However, covid disrupted that. Because of the new rules at our hospitals, I was able to sit with Wayne Armstrong, his daughter, Michelle, and Diane's sister, Jan, at Tacoma General. We prayed and praised the Lord for the hope filled doctor's report. (The great news is that Diane has been cleared by her doctor to come to church, and she has attended with Wayne the last three Sundays. Praise the Lord! Today is 5/28/23)

Another change involved the Christmas Friendship Lunch. This time I decided to switch the venue to our South Chapel. (It is easier for seniors to navigate than the steps to Fellowship Hall, plus there is a piano). Seven people had covid, including Eric, and we certainly missed them. A good thing is we had two people in their 90's, guests from "OUT" side, and the front tables had several people who used walkers. Since I knew this would be my last Christmas Friendship Lunch, I asked my daughter, Sara, who teaches in the Bible Dept at SPU, to speak, and my husband, Jon, to direct two songs by the Norwegian Male Chorus. (We are forever grateful that First Pres allowed the chorus to practice at the church on Mondays.) A big thank you goes to the Deacons for assisting with the setting up of the South Chapel venue and to the staff and youth who also served us. In addition, Aaron created the best food ever as attested to by all of those who attended. Many thanks for all the years you have blessed us, Aaron. I also want to thank Karen Ackerson who has helped me every year with the technical details of this occasion. I will always cherish your precious heart, Karen, as well as Barb Trapp's friendship and her gift of playing the violin.

With the remaining part of this report, I would like to focus on a few of the things I have learned.

- FIRST PRES MEMBERS HAVE GENEROUS HEARTS INSIDE and "OUT". I have probably eaten more cookies and cake than my doctor would want, but the members always shared graciously! I remember one person who called me up and said, "Jean, you haven't visited me this week." I finally replied, "OK, I will put you on my weekly calling list." That means that every Friday, I stopped at her house on my way home to Gig Harbor, and she always had food for me. Fortunately, it was soup and not carbs. We became close friends as we prayed together on those Fridays. Later she asked me to be the officiant for her son's memorial service whenever he died (she knew that she was going to Heaven first), and I did the service. A guest from the "OUT" side later called the church and said it was the best service he had ever attended. It may have been the first memorial service he had ever attended, but the good news is that First Pres members want to be sure that the Risen Christ is proclaimed at their services.

- FIRST PRES MEMBERS WANT TO SERVE “OUT” SIDE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. A member in her early 80’s asked me to do research for her about working longer because she was upset that her family wanted her to retire. I made a list for her of people I knew (or knew about) who worked well into late 80’s. She was so excited that she could tell her family that she wasn’t too old to work at the rug store and perhaps could invite old customers to come to First Pres. When I last gave her Communion, she was in her late 90’s, in memory care, and still talking to the residents about her wonderful Jesus and First Pres. On February 26, 2023, she went to Heaven. I miss her.
- FIRST PRES MEMBERS VALUE PRAYER THAT IS FOCUSED “OUT” AND PERSEVERES. One year I received a call from one of our members that her friend’s boyfriend was dying and that the machines that were keeping him alive were going to be pulled the next day. All she knew was that he was at St. Joe’s and of another nationality. Would I please go and pray for him because I could probably get into the ICU? I went promptly. The problem was that the ICU said they had no man of my description in the ICU. When I got back to my car (where Jon was waiting), I felt the Holy Spirit telling me to “go back”. Jon agreed with me, and I did return. This time I got a different operator. She said, “Oh, we have two ICU’s. Let me check.” Bingo! I walked into his room. I felt the power of the Holy Spirit so mightily that I actually wept for this man who I had never seen before as I prayed. (I should say, as the Holy Spirit, who raised Christ from the dead, prayed.) The nurse at first wouldn’t believe me, but she did after she rushed into the room. That July this man and his girlfriend came to First Pres to thank me. I think there is a good reason that I wasn’t there. It wasn’t me who should be thanked, but the Holy Spirit. I will never forget that day, the day that the Holy Spirit prompted me to persevere, go back, and pray.

Now I will say “shalom”, dear brothers and sisters in Christ. I am hoping that you will bless your new visitation minister, Diana Agustsson, as much as you have blessed me. As I have said in the past, according to the African saying, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

Your sister in Christ,

Jean Malmin

Romans 12:12

## Deacons

“Deacons lead ministries that nurture fellowship and caregiving within and beyond the congregation” (ECO Polity, 2.03). This year we had a big transition in the Deacon board. We added 6 new members and are growing as a board, in the Lord, with each other, and in service to others.

**UP:** The ministry of the Deacons requires us to serve outside of our own comfort zones, pointing us to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. We were grateful for the Lord’s provision as we provided Thanksgiving food baskets to 54 families and supported ministries. The Lord also provided so we could bless 8 church families with gift cards for Christmas. In December, our Deacons meeting focused on the outgoing Deacons. They shared what they learned during their service, and how God shaped their lives.

**OUT:** This OUT season, the Deacons have been honored to host a Sunday School class focusing on our ministry and the ministries we support. We started the series with Deacons sharing about our ministry, followed the next week by deacon, Russ Guppy, sharing about Police Chaplaincy; Dan Stoehr with REACH Ministries; Robert Weyrick with Network Tacoma; Nikki Davidson with the Bryant Neighborhood Center; and Elizabeth Huey with Coffee Oasis. We also provided 49 Easter Food Baskets to both church members and our supported ministries. We have also interacted with our supported ministries in a variety of ways. On April 15, Jason Bartley and Tony Caro attended Network Tacoma’s auction. On May 11, Jennifer Rich attended REACH ministries “Circle of Hope Breakfast” and offered the closing prayer. On May 19, Jason Bartley, Rebecca Chapman, and Jennifer Rich attended a Soft Launch for Coffee Oasis and the next day, May 20, several deacons attended the grand opening of the Tacoma Coffee Oasis. We support a Ukrainian Refugee Family for almost one year financially, with help to appointments by Annette Clingman, and other support with help from the congregation. The family has now returned to Ukraine, and we were able to bless them with the remainder of our pledged support before they left.

**IN:** During the IN season, we have supported one another with prayer and praise request at each meeting. We have established Deacon buddies and get together to encourage and support one another. We have supported our congregation by organizing memorial services. We have also been flexible with changes to communion set up as we transition to post pandemic standards. Madi Leifson blesses members with an encouraging card for birthdays, or life events expressed in the prayer chain. Rebecca Chapman also leads our ministry to provide meals to members when needed. With Jean Malmin’s retirement, and our outgoing Deacon Visitation Chair, we have enjoyed serving with our new Deacon Visitation Chair, Russ Guppy, to support our shut-in members.

**Thank you for Your Support:** We have been highly encouraged by God’s continued provision this year. We are grateful to God and our congregation for the ongoing support of our ministry. Thank you for your financial contributions to the Deacon Fund.

Through this fund, you are helping meet the needs of our church and the community by:

- Providing for emergency needs within our congregation through the Tender Loving Church ("TLC") Fund. Friends of members may also be helped upon referral. Emergency utilities assistance through member referrals and through Bridges of Love NW.
- Providing meals for families through our Thanksgiving and Easter Food Basket program.

The local ministries supported through the Deacon Fund are: Hilltop Christian Center, Care Net, Bridges of Love NW, Neighborhood Clinic, Network Ministries, REACH Ministries, Southeast Asian Ministry, Bryant Neighborhood Center, Victory Outreach and The Coffee Oasis.

The Deacons desire to care well for our church and surrounding community. Please come to us with prayer requests or when you need emergency assistance. If you are new to the church, we want to welcome you and let you know we are glad you are here!

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the **2023 Board of Deacons**: Jason Bartley, Tony Caro, Rebecca Chapman, Annette Clingman, Paula Cook, Tom Fox, Madi Leifson, Russ Guppy, Jenn Jensen, Suzanne Messenger and Linda Winther. It is an honor to be on a team which reflects God's love, faithfulness, and service.

Thank you,

Jennifer Rich, Deacon Chair



## Christian Education Ministries

### Kids' Ministry

The Mission of FPC Kids' Ministry is to transform the hearts of kids in order to ignite a life-long desire to LOVE God, SERVE others, and GROW in their relationship with Jesus. We believe that parents are the primary spiritual influence in a child's life, and it is our goal to partner with and support our parents as they nurture and guide their children. This mission is lived out through our Sunday School and Kids' Church programs, VBS, Camp McCullough, outreach family events, and our partnership events with First Pres Preschool & Cor Deo.

We strive to strategically align our programming with our church's Rhythms of Discipleship in order to help our FPC kids grow as disciples of Christ. Although we aren't always able to line up the dates to correlate directly with the specific season, we do work to ensure that each activity or program focuses our kids on the UP, IN or OUT season. We've structured this report through the lens of this framework and not by the date on which they occurred.

#### **OUT SEASON**-*Focusing on sending and serving.*

**Treasured VBS:** 100 wonderful volunteers worked together to create an amazing week of VBS for over 160 energetic kids! Through fun games, crafts, skits, songs and Bible stories, kids learned that they are God's treasure! VBS continues to be a great place for our church family to serve and a wonderful outreach for kids in our community.

A few months before VBS, we hosted a "VBS Sneak Peek" where we revealed our new theme and began recruiting volunteers! This has been a fun tradition and a great way to build excitement for VBS!

**Beginner & Junior Camp:** Summer 2022 at Camp McCullough was a success! We hired over 40 young staff to serve as our counselors, kitchen & maintenance crew, and they all attended a one-day Staff Training event at camp in June to prepare for their roles. Campers experienced lake-time adventures, exciting games, fun activities, and rich Bible teachings. Marlene Phillips shared engaging Bible Stories each day with our Beginner Campers, and Hollylu Coon captivated our junior campers with her humor and Bible storytelling skills! Camp continues to be a place where the lives of the campers and staff are transformed by the powerful work of Jesus!

**Trunk or Treat:** In October, sixteen families decorated their cars and filled their trunks with candy to pass out to over 100 FPC families, school families and community members. This year we added hot cider and popcorn stations and invited families to join us on a Sunday morning at FPC. We also "filled the truck" with boxed and canned food to donate to the New Jerusalem Food Bank. This event has become a beloved tradition!

#### **UP**-*Focusing on our relationship with God.*

**Kids' Club (9:15am):** We continue to have a strong team of dedicated teachers who show up every Sunday at 9:00am to build relationships with the kids and help them learn more about Jesus. We are grateful for our teachers: *Aaron Martinez, Matt Cozby & Riley McKenzie (3rd-5th grade boys); Megan West & Laurel Juergens (3rd-5th grade girls); Heidi Van Harper (Kinders, 1st & 2nd grade); Julie Brownlee, Eli Lauer and Emily Kagey (Preschool).*

**Preschool Kids' Church (10:30am service):** Our preschool classrooms have been bursting at the seams, so in April, we opened two new classrooms to accommodate for the growth. We currently have an average of 40-45 kids who attend our nursery and preschool programs each Sunday. During class, they spend time playing, crafting and learning about who Jesus is through engaging Bible stories told by our amazing volunteers.

**Elementary Kids' Church:** Elementary aged kids are enjoying meeting in Fellowship Hall to play silly games together before worship and the Bible lesson. We currently have an average of thirty 1st-5th graders attending each week. They are "Digging In" to the Bible with our current Dig-In curriculum and learning about "Foundations of Faith" this year. Each lesson lays the groundwork for what it means to be a Christian. Kids explore what the Bible reveals about who God is and how God sees us, how we fit in God's family, and how we live the Christian life.

**Preschool & Elementary Kids' Church Volunteers:** Our Kids' Ministry volunteers are the best! In Elementary Kids' Church, we have a solid rotation of 7 volunteers who serve once a month. In the Nursery and Preschool Kids' Church, we have over 60 dedicated volunteers (adults and teens) serving in the classrooms, greeting at the welcome station and helping with clean-up. God has grown our team by 20 volunteers since this time last year! Praise God! We also have twelve highly responsible "Leaders in Training" (middle & high school students) who assist our teachers. We could not run these programs without the help, talent and support of our amazing volunteers!

#### **Established In Christ (Prayer Partner Program):**

In the fall of 2022, we relaunched "Established In Christ," a prayer program created and spearheaded by Kristen Clarke, where faithful praying adults were paired with the children of our congregation. 94 kids and adults prayed for each other, built new friendships and deepened their prayer life. For 7 weeks, Kristen provided a weekly encouraging email with verses, prayer activities for parents to do with their kids, and specific ways for the adult to pray for them. Both the kids and adults in the program were spurred on and grew in their prayer lives! Thank you, Kristen Clarke, for creating and leading this discipleship-based prayer partner program for our FPC family!

**3rd Grade Bible:** In January, seven 3rd graders received a Bible from Kids' Ministry during the service. We used this opportunity to share with the kids the importance of learning the scriptures and reading their Bibles daily. Our hope is that by giving kids a Bible they will begin the spiritual practice of daily Bible reading early in their childhood and stick to it throughout adulthood.

**Advent Kick-Off:** On the first Sunday of Advent, we invited John & Carrissa Lewis to speak to our young families and some singles, about Advent and the importance of creating family traditions that point to Jesus. We hosted eight full tables of families who enjoyed breakfast, an inspirational presentation and wreath making! Each family made a "live" Advent wreath together, with branches from both Camp McCullough and Wright Park. Our hope is that this event inspired families to connect with each other and God during the Christmas season.

**Christmas Program:** Our FPC kids retold the beautiful story of the birth of Christ in a heartwarming video. This year, we included an in-person component to the Christmas video with a Kids' Choir directed by Lily Rich. The kids learned two Christmas songs and performed them after the video was shown to the congregation. We've enjoyed making videos over the past three years, but also loved transitioning back to a live performance. We are very grateful for Lily's willingness to rehearse with the kids for six weeks prior to the performance and for all of the kids who participated in the video and/or choir.

**Palm Sunday:** On Palm Sunday, our kids participated in the worship service by parading down the center aisle, waving palm branches, followed by “Jesus” on our donkey. Lily Rich again led our kids in learning the song each Sunday for the month before Palm Sunday and directing them the day of the performance. We loved having our whole congregation participate in the song by waving branches too!

**Kids’ Message:** We started presenting Kids’ Messages again during the worship service this year. We feel it is important to include kids in our worship services and love that our messages are now scheduled on Communion Sundays, which we refer to as Family Worship Days, when kids stay in the service with their families. Along with Julie & Laurel, Julia Collins, Jim Brownlee & Eric are also on our rotation.

**IN-** *Focusing on our relationship with each other.*

We realize in writing this that most of our events and programs are both UP, OUT & IN simultaneously! Our kids and families are creating strong bonds and friendships as they participate in Sunday School, Kids’ Church, Camp, and VBS. They are making last memories with each other as they laugh, learn and grow.

**5th grade graduation** - We see the biggest evidence of the power of friendship when our 5th graders “graduate” from Kids’ Ministry and head into Youth Ministry together. Their bond of friendship gives them confidence & security during this transition. We’ve partnered with McKenzie Peirson to recognize these kids who have spent their early years with us and encourage them to continue their faith journey through middle and high school.

We are grateful for the ways God is moving in Kids’ Ministry and for the strong support we receive from our church leadership and FPC family!

Julie Brownlee, Co-Coordinator

Laurel Juergens, Co-Coordinator

## Youth Ministry

### Youth Ministry 2022-2023 Annual Report

The Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church exists to help students love God in a fun and authentic community and to disciple them to love one another and serve others. The FPC Youth Ministry accomplishes this through weekly Youth Group and Sunday School, summer programs, and yearly events. Our teachings cover topics such as spiritual habits, friendship, loving others, doubt, and evangelism. Throughout the year we cover various books of the bible from both the Old & New Testaments while focusing on spiritual growth.

#### **Out - Focusing on sending and serving. (March-June 2022)**

**Gleanings-** Gleanings for the Hungry continues to be a powerful mission trip for our youth and adult leaders. Last summer (2022) 12 students and 4 leaders made the trek to central California to serve at the Gleanings YWAM base. This is a great opportunity for students to learn the value of serving!

The FPC Youth Ministry hopes to continue incorporating more “Out” activities in the future.

**In- Focusing on our relationship with each other. (July- October 2023)**

**Camp-** Both our Middle School and High School camps were well attended. Our middle school camp speaker was Josh Peacock from Anchor, and our High school camp speaker was Alastair Moyer from NCC. Many students worked at camp as support staff, kitchen crew, lifeguards, and counselors. All of our FPC Camps continue to offer solid Biblical teaching, fellowship, and spiritual growth for our students. Camp McCullough is a place for students to grow in their relationship with God and their peers.

**Events-** Throughout the school year, we were able to provide our students with various events such as game nights, movie nights, and Christmas parties. These events are intended to build community among our students!

**Meals-** Dinner on Wednesday nights for the youth came back this year! During this blended time of fellowship, middle & high school youth groups eat together, building relationships with one another and leaders. Parents and members of the congregation provided meals. Thanks to everyone who volunteered for this and special thanks to Amy Forslund for being the ultimate host.

**Up- Focusing on our relationship with God (November 2022- February 2023)**

**High School Retreat at Camp McCullough-** Our high school students spent a weekend focusing on their relationship with God. We spent time in prayer, worship, and discussion.

**Confirmation-** We had 22 high school students attend our confirmation class. Confirmation covered three questions: “Why Jesus, Why church, and Why this Church?”, over the span of 6 weeks. We hope to offer confirmation to our students again in the future.

**Worship Night –** To celebrate the end of the Up season we invited the congregation to join us in an evening of worship. The emphasis was reflecting on “who God is”, and several students were involved in the production of the event.

**Volunteers**

In addition to student involvement, many adult volunteers make this ministry possible. We have some amazing youth leaders that serve every single Wednesday. Those volunteers are Julie Brownlee, Katie Nalty, Torin Holmes, Mitch Kelly, Ian Martinez Royce Gonzalez, Kaia Brown, Sharon Kimotho, and Eli Lauer. Finally, Terry Forslund, Justine Byers, Katie Nalty, Bob Wagner, and Gregg Leach have faithfully come alongside the ministry as leaders and teachers every Sunday morning during Sunday School. My deepest thanks to all these individuals for answering God’s call to ministry!

McKenzie Peirson, Youth Director

## First Presbyterian Preschool

First Presbyterian Preschool is in its 53rd year of serving the Tacoma community. The mission of FPP is to offer a well-rounded early childhood education, grounded in God's word and approached through the lens of His love, cultivating a lifelong love of learning and a vibrant faith for each child. We (Becky and Lucy) are finishing up our second year as directors and excited with where God is leading and how he is moving in the school.

The school year started off emotionally heavy. There were several families who were suffering greatly from significant loss and family conflict. Our teachers were struggling with unfamiliar behavioral problems from undiagnosed disorders and fallout from COVID. Every class had challenging students that were difficult for even senior teachers to navigate. God was faithful. We prayed and researched and tried out new strategies. We are ending this year with new tools for the future and with greater trust that our Lord provides wisdom and guidance to help shepherd these little ones. This deeper trust and reliance on God fit so well into the "UP" focus for FPP.

Our beloved teacher, Mrs. Althea Jones, faced complicated health issues this year. When she was able to return to school, she again had to leave to care for her husband, Larry, as his cancer returned. Larry went to be with the Lord on April 14. Mrs. Jones has suffered greatly this year but still shines the love of God so brightly. We have had a team of teachers working to give her students consistency. Mrs. Jones's assistant teacher, Ms. Carr, led well during this time. Mrs. Jones will be retiring after over thirty years of teaching at FPP. We are so thankful for her and the legacy she created here!

The FPP community has grown greatly this year. The number of families that spend extra time together out on the playground after school is incredible. They have built trusting relationships that bring so much joy. Other events have also contributed to this strong community building, like Father's Feast, Mother's Tea and the auction. Our teachers have also continued in their love and support of one another. The senior teachers mentor the new teachers, the new teachers bring fresh eyes and perspective to the senior teachers. There is an openness and collaborative nature to our entire staff that allows teachers to feel supported by one another. We have enjoyed and see the benefit of the "IN" focus for FPP.

Becky has worked diligently with a small committee of teachers to update our curriculum on Native American history, Thanksgiving and MLK day. This was a beautiful labor of love that will produce fruit for years to come. We have also updated our books and toys to reflect the diversity in God's kingdom.

The Annual Auction raised funds for scholarships. We are so thankful for all the members of FPC who came and supported the school. What a fun night! We were able to reward every family who requested a scholarship for next year. We will get to reach "OUT" and share the love of God to so many new families next year.

We have three trips planned to Camp McCullough over the remaining month of school. We are hoping this introduction to camp will encourage parents to send their kids to summer camp when

they're a little older. Working with Keelin Maurmann and Torin Holmes to make these trips possible has been a blessing and fun.

Lastly, we wanted to share how we are settling into our roles as co-directors. Last year, with COVID and learning the job, we worked on most projects together. This year started that same way with the goal of dividing and conquering. Over the last few months, we have found our lanes and learned how to communicate even more effectively and efficiently. We are so thankful for this partnership, along with Courtney. We see God moving and are so excited for next school year.

Beck Stickler, FPP Co-Coordinator

Lucy Leach, FPP Co-Coordinator

## Additional Ministries

### Missions

**Mark and Iris Barnes** (YWAM, Youth With A Mission). The last 10 years the Barnes have been state side, making trips to Brazil. God has been opening the doors for them to get back to full time focus on Brazil and expanding the ministry. Pray for God's timing and guidance as they make the transition back to full time ministry in Brazil.

**Steve and Jennifer Baughman** (Wycliff Bible Translators)-EMDC (Eurasia Media & Distribution Consultation). Last October they led the first EMDC Mexico and they just finished up EMDC Thailand in May. Hundreds of people attended from many countries and many mission agencies were involved. EMDC continues online with thousands enrolled. Praise God for the ability to equip missionaries with many helpful tools.

**Brendan and Erin Connally** (SIM, Serving In Missions). Their family was able to fly to South Africa for a SIM conference even though there was political unrest in Peru which shut down airports and roads. Things have settled down and they are able to continue their ministry with Orality and dentistry amongst the Quechua people of the Andes. Thank the Lord for safety and continued ministry.

**Paul Lewis** (Wycliff Bible Translators). He continues to teach in Peru and online. He also researches, writes, and rewrites articles for publishing. Pray for his years of experience to be passed on to others and multiply for the kingdom of God.

**Karen and Rob Mahon** (Navigators). They are currently traveling in Singapore and other southeast Asian countries to encourage other Navigator missionaries in the area of discipleship. When in the states, they continue working with immigrant families from Africa, keeping them encouraged in their walks with the Lord and sharing their faith. Pray the faith of these families reaches back to their homelands.

**Edwin and Evie Martinez** (One Challenge International). They have started working with a woman who has a heart for encouraging women in missions in Guatemala. Edwin has also teamed up with other guys to plan ways to reach the younger generation. They continue training people to be missionaries, planning short term mission trips, evangelizing, and teaching. Pray for the fruit of these efforts to be a blessing to God.

**Sue Mills** (Inter Varsity). She is the Assistant Director of Intercessory Prayer, developing a prayer culture on campuses. The goal is to have every campus covered in prayer with ministry coming out of prayer. With more prayer, there is more answers to prayer! God is on the move on colleges and university campuses. Pray for students to make lifelong commitments to Jesus.

**Zack and Nadia Mills** (Navigators). Stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC, Zack holds Bible studies with marines and sailors. Nadia holds Bible studies with women whether wives or active duty. Pray for those they disciple to be strong witnesses for the Lord when they are deployed to other parts of the world.

**Mary Peterson** (Bible Centered Ministries). She ministers to people with varied disabilities, which also reaches caregivers, families, and host families with some coming to the Lord. Thank the Lord for her ability to reach people with special needs, may she see answers to prayer.

**Barry and Jan Potter** (Masashino Chapel Center). They are back in Tokyo, Japan. Barry has accepted a position as a pastor of a church and Jan has been asked to work with women's and children's ministries. Tokyo has 37 million people, and the majority needs to hear the gospel. Pray for them to be salt and light as they pastor, disciple and reach out to the community. Pray for healing in Jan's right foot as she's having problems with plantar fasciitis, and everything requires walking which is painful.

**Jack and Nancy Snyder** (Damascus Road Recovery Center). They are working with men recovering from addictions, getting their lives back together so they can return to their families. They head up the spiritual oversight to the program, church services, morning and evening devotions and counseling sessions. Thankfully this program has a good success rate. Pray for these men as they return home to make right choices and walk with the Lord.

### **Agencies**

Care Net Pregnancy and Family Services  
New Beginnings  
Child Evangelism Fellowship  
Olive Crest

Outreach Foundation  
Tacoma Police Chaplaincy  
Young Life  
Youth For Christ

From your missions committee members: Janet Lauer, Betty McCartney, Connie Connally, Stan and Helen Simonsen, and Tim and Adellia Kleefeld



## Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study spent the fall of 2022 focusing on discipleship. Women met online on Tuesday nights hosted by Carol Heath and in-person on Tuesday mornings led by Laurel Juergens. In the fall, the women studied "Encountering God" by Kelly Minter. The study examined why spiritual disciplines are essential in our walk with God. In 14 weeks, from September - December, the study unpacked the biblical foundations for spiritual disciplines and offered practical ways to practice prayer, study, worship, generosity, rest, and many other disciplines. It was an eye-opening experience in understanding how our whole lives are an act of worship.

In January, the women (online and in-person) focused on the UP season of discipleship by studying the book "He's Where the Joy Is: Getting to know the Captivating God of the Trinity" where author & speaker Tara Leigh Cobble broke down the intimidating doctrine of the Trinity. The women discovered a beautiful, foundational view of our Triune God that transformed how we relate to Him. Understanding God's three-in-oneness and each of the Persons of God individually-Father, Son, and Spirit-will creates a deeper intimacy with God and greater joy in knowing Him.

Carol Heath spent a great deal of time thoughtfully crafting the study to work online and in-person over a period of 5 months (January-May). The study allowed for deep discussion, Bible reading, and prayer. The women were blessed by the small groups they were in. Approximately 28 women attended the study this year.

Laurel Juergens, Director of Spiritual Formation and Family Ministry

## Ladies Fellowship

Ladies Fellowship welcomes all women to attend this friendly group. The meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month, except July, August, and January. The time is 12 noon to 2 pm in the south building of the church. Usually we bring our own lunch, but sometimes it is provided. There are 3 ladies who make phone calls each month, before the meeting, to give you any information you may need to have.

Our emphasis is on missions, whether they are local or overseas. We enjoy a variety of speakers on the subject of missions whenever there is one available. Updates are given on the missionaries, and organizations, our church supports. Ladies Fellowship sends money every month to the New Beginnings home in Puyallup. We always enjoy having Miles Musick, founder of that ministry, speak to us. We appreciate hearing the updates as they continue to add more facilities for moms and babies.

Announcements about our meeting are always in the Sunday bulletin. If you would like to attend, and are not on the calling list yet, you may call the church office for more details. At the end of each meeting, we sing the chorus, "Count Your Blessings" as a reminder of all we have to be thankful for.

Respectfully Submitted, Janet Lauer

## The Gathering

The Gathering of First Pres Women (The GATHERING) has a mission to consciously connect the women of FPC in order to develop deeper relationships with each other. This is done by hosting three to four sponsored events throughout the year. The inaugural GATHERING event was held during the summer of 2018 and was successful in its mission from the start.

As with most things, COVID caused the group to take a long pause after the February 2020 GATHERING event. Taking a 32-month hiatus, the GATHERING was reinvigorated with the formation of a leadership team consisting of seven FPC women. These ladies are purpose driven and find joy in partnering with each other for the common mission of strengthening the Women's Ministry at FPC.

The first post-COVID event was held October 23, 2022 - and was an intimate "Soup, Sip, & Slice" event hosted in the home of an FPC family. It was refreshing to gather again (mask free!) to reconnect, eat, and laugh over good homemade food.

The second event of the year was held at First Pres on February 10, 2023 and was a "Galentine's Game Night" - a valentines themed Bunco event.

The GATHERING committee also assisted in various capacities at the FPC Women's Retreat held at Camp McCullough in March 2023. At each sponsored GATHERING event, we average between 30 to 35 women in attendance. As a GATHERING committee, we meet periodically to plan future events and to develop a deeper bond as a team. We look forward to God's continued blessing in growing this ministry and anticipate continued progress in the connections being cultivated both in and out of the church.

With care,  
Allison Edinger

## MOPS

MOPS stands for Mothers of Preschoolers and serves as a ministry and source of fellowship for moms of children ages 5 years and younger. We meet in the South Chapel at FPC about twice a month from 9:15am-11:15am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, September through May. Our MOPS dues this year were \$95 per mom to participate.

Our year began last July as our 12 leadership team members met for our annual leadership retreat where we plan out our year, get to know each other and create a plan of action for MOPS meetings. Anna Dayton served as coordinator and Lindsay Jabara served as co-coordinator leading the rest of the MOPS team who consisted of: Table Leaders- Lizzy Altman, Marlee Myers, Abby Iqbal, Brittney Mitchell, Jennifer Spencer, Elaine Nygren; Church Liaison- Holly Wall; Hospitality- Holly Wall, Brittney Mitchell; Crafts- Lizzy Altman, Elaine Nygren; Fundraising- Marlee Myers; Speaker Coordinators- Abby Iqbal, Pat Albuquerque; Media- Pat Albuquerque; Childcare Liaison- Kelly Larson; Special Events- Ashlei Calvillo. We also had 6 mentor moms on our team, each sat at a table and encouraged, prayed, and socialized with our moms, providing so much insight and wisdom into our lives. They consisted of Gretchen Byers, Carolyn Havel, Leanna Brewster, Mandy Kingsbury, Julie Shiohita and Lynn Peterson.

Our MOPS theme this year was “We Go Together”, emphasizing showing up and having fun, being vulnerable, lifting each other up and being unoffendable. This year we had close to 50 moms register for MOPS, some joining later in the year. We met 12 times this year. We had excellent attendance, averaging over 30 moms per meeting. We had a wide range of moms, many who identified as Christians, but several who did not. This was such an answer to prayer, as we were able to minister to these women and introduce them to Jesus in MOPS, where they felt comfortable, validated, and understood. We had a variety of meetings that included various expert speakers, unique crafts, themed parties and even a Mother’s Day pampering meeting. This ministry serves young mothers so well, as there are often no other alternatives where women can meet with other moms at this capacity while their children are also well cared for- giving them much needed reprieve.

Beyond our monthly meetings, we would have monthly playdates and mom’s night outs. This gave the moms in our group a chance to get to know each other on a deeper level and cultivate friendships. The leadership team also had a monthly meeting in person or on zoom to further plan out meetings in more detail for each month.

Early in the year, we quickly ran out of room in our childcare rooms due to lack of childcare volunteers and had to waitlist several moms and slowly let them in one at a time as childcare “spots” became available. Interest is growing significantly, many new moms are wanting to join MOPS now that COVID is a bit farther behind us, and we did have some difficulty keeping up with demand. Barb Gehrett is an incredible asset to MOPS, this MOPS group would not be functioning without her efforts to schedule childcare workers in our nursery, 2-year-old, 3-year-old and 4-year-old classrooms. It would be nice to relieve her of her duties, if we could find 5-6 more childcare volunteers to come in for 2 hours about twice a month, our need would be met. Our leadership team has discussed this, and we plan to reach out to other churches in the area as well as homeschool cooperatives to find willing volunteers. This group cannot continue to minister and

provide fellowship and a faith centered safe space for moms if we do not have more childcare volunteers.

Throughout the year we had 4 fundraisers. Our first was a family photoshoot with a local photographer, Alexandria Kelly, where we charged families \$60 each and we raised \$460. Our second was a Christmas raffle where we auctioned off several items as well as raffled off items, we raised \$1,027 at that event. Our third was a mentor moms date night basket raffle for Valentine's Day, where the mentor moms procured a basket of date night themed items and we raised \$100. Our fourth and final was our Value Village textile drive where we donated 1,437lbs of textiles and raised \$359. All this netted us a total of \$1,946 to put towards our MOPS group.

This year was such a success thanks in part to everyone that contributed and showed up for this group of women. God truly provided what we needed. It has been a privilege to serve this MOPS group and contribute to a ministry so near to my heart.

Thank you,

Anna Dayton

### Camp McCullough

2022/2023 year for Camp McCullough has been an incredible season of growth for Camp McCullough; one filled with opportunities, growth, and continued building on all the hard work put into this ministry years ago. The past year has been a return to normal function here at Camp McCullough; rebuilding our own programs like Junior, Middle School, and High School camps as well as reconnecting with groups we have had a relationship with for years. In fall 2021/winter 2022 church helped launch two new positions at camp in an attempt to keep momentum strong and fill the growing needs of Camp McCullough as it got moving again. Overall, it has been incredibly encouraging to see ALL that God is doing here.

The following are some of the wins we have seen over the past year that I want to share with our church family:

- 1.) In the fall of 2021/winter 2022 our church saw the need to get staff back on at Camp McCullough as we began to open up our doors. This initiative saw the creation of two new roles; one focusing on the huge operational needs the Camp McCullough property needs as well as one focusing on helping create more opportunities for our church to come out to camp with dynamic and intentional programs. Torin Holmes has been serving in the operations/staff management role and Keelin Maurmann has been serving in the program role.

- 2.) Summer 2023 we have seen a huge response to our summer staff program. We had almost 60 applicants this season, which is the most we have had since prior to the 2020 pandemic. With the huge need for support out at camp during the summers we have also seen the return of key leadership roles for young people here at camp, operations assistant, lead maintenance, lead kitchen, and lead lifeguard. These jobs are pivotal to running Camp McCullough during the summer and have been missing these roles since Summer 2019. We will have 10 full-time summer staff out at Camp McCullough for over 8 weeks this summer, all serving in different areas.
- 3.) The growing needs for our facility do not go unseen. As many areas around camp are beginning to see their wear and possibly needing replacement, we have made a huge effort to begin the process of updating these areas. With incredible generosity from our church and other donors. Some of these areas of attention have been replacing all of the decking and understructure on the boat dock, getting new mattresses and bed frames for all of our summer staff (upstairs in the lodge and in the Gazabin), new canoes/paddle boards for our waterfront, and many more projects planned!
- 4.) With the addition of the program role at camp, one of our hopes is to have more happening out at our Camp McCullough property. Some of the programs that have been so successful are Camptoberfest, Christmas at Camp, Women's Retreat, Men's Retreat, Winter Youth Retreats, MOPS Weekend, Work Parties, etc. Our goal is to see one church event at camp each month.

There are SO MANY things I could talk about regarding the past year at Camp McCullough, but these are just some of the highlights. We are so thankful for the opportunity to serve our church in this way and look forward to all that the Lord has to come.

**Torin Holmes**

*Interim Camp Operation Manager*

*Camp McCullough Ministry*

## Greeter Ministry Team

I might be very biased, but I believe that being a greeter is the best volunteer job at church. You get to stand at a door and observe our church family coming together to worship our great God. It's easy to smile and say "hello" or "good morning" to such a precious group of believers. But there's more! Greeters get to be the first face of welcome to someone who may be hearing the gospel for the first time or the maybe the time when they hear and believe. Visitors are looking for a place to belong and a friendly face makes a huge difference to them. It's not just a smile and a handshake, it's a ministry.

There are over 50 people who volunteer to be greeters. Some greet for holidays and special occasions, some twice a month, some once a month, some four times a year. Thank you for being faithful representatives of our church body and the Body of Christ as you stand at the doorways.

Psalm 84:10 "A day in Thy courts is better than a thousand outside. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God."

Psalm 122:1 "I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of our LORD."

There are opportunities open for anyone to sign-up and get on the schedule. I would love to see 50 more! Contact me if you would like to join the greeter ministry team.

Love ya,

Carol Heath – [cheath@fpctacoma.org](mailto:cheath@fpctacoma.org)

## Prime Timers

Prime Timers is an outreach ministry to the 55+ community. It is a social gathering intended to alleviate loneliness and is regularly held the first Friday of each month from 4:30 to 7:00 pm. Karen Ackerson, Donna Adams, Barbara Trapp, and Madi Leifson are the organizers of this monthly event. Everyone is asked to bring a potluck item to contribute toward a shared dinner and any games people enjoy playing afterward.

September 2, 2022 was the first time Prime Timers has been held since the pandemic (March 2020). Twenty-two people attended, and a great time was had by all! There is good conversation with lots of fun and laughter. It is a time to enjoy old friends and meet new ones, to re-connect, and to encourage one another. We also see it as a wonderful opportunity to offer hospitality and get to know our neighbors, especially those at Merrill Gardens, and we have extended them an open invitation to join us! We have met monthly since September with the exception of April (as that was Good Friday). May 5, 2023 was our largest gathering so far with 28 friends joining in on the fun.

Prime Timers meets the criteria of the Rhythms of Discipleship, specifically IN by nurturing friendships among our church attendees, and OUT in offering our neighbors to join in the fun! In the upcoming months we look forward to meeting new friends, enjoying old friends, and just having a good time together!

Thank you,

Barb Trapp

## Membership Report

### **Membership Report Period Ending June 7, 2023**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <i>Active Members reported on May 31, 2022</i>         | <i>379</i> |
| <i>Adjustments (prior period roll removals/ death)</i> | <i>-3</i>  |
| <br>   |            |
| New Members  | 31         |
| Member Deaths  | -5         |
| <br>   |            |
| Roll Removals  | -8         |
| <br>   |            |
| <b>Active Members on June 7, 2023</b>                  | <b>394</b> |



## Annual Congregational Meeting

June 12, 2022

### June 12, 2022 - Annual Congregational Meeting

#### First Presbyterian Church of Tacoma

The annual meeting of the Congregation was held in Fellowship Hall on June 12, 2022, following the morning worship service. The purpose of the meeting was to present the 2021-2022 Annual Report and the 2022-2023 Budget Overview. A Meeting of the Corporation followed for the purpose of approving minutes, electing Elders and Deacons and accepting the Pastor's Terms of Call. A quorum of more than forty members was confirmed.

Lance Kagey led the congregation in worship focused on Micah 6:8.

The meeting was called to order by Elder Barbara Gehrett and opened in prayer by Elder Rory Connally.

#### Part I: Meeting of the Congregation

In remembrance, Minister of Visitation Jean Malmin read aloud the names of beloved members and friends of the church who entered the Church Triumphant from June 1, 2021, through May 31, 2022. They include Burg Mesler, David Martin-Balzarini, Bob Matson, Peter Walters, Pegge Ellis, David Lundberg, Mary Eklund, Glenn Myhre, George Cripe, Don Sundquist and Dollie Hurt.

Pastor Jacobsen presented a review of the 2021-2022 Annual Report which included mission/ministry highlights:

- Started a new discipleship model centered on a yearly rhythm of focusing on UP (our relationship with God), OUT (serving and mission), and IN (relationships within our Christian community).

Pastor Jacobsen then talked about looking forward to 2022-2023, including:

- Staff reorganization incorporating a newly formed Senior Leadership Team
- 2020 Study leave was cancelled due to Covid am planning on taking it this Summer and am looking forward to some rest and further studies.

Rory Connally, representing the Camp McCullough Committee, presented a Camp update.

Aaron Byers, representing the Finance Committee, presented the 2022-2023 Budget Overview.

#### Part II: Meeting of the Corporation

**Motion:** It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes from the Annual Congregational Meeting dated August 22, 2021, and the Special Congregational Meeting dated January 16, 2022.

Barbara Gehrett, representing the Nominating Committee, introduced the nominees for the office of Elder (Class of 2025): Andy Leach (first term), Barbara Gehrett (second term) and Terry Forslund (second term). No nominations were offered from the floor.

**Motion:** It was moved, seconded, and approved that the nominations for Elder be closed.

**Motion:** It was moved, seconded, and approved that the nominees be elected.

Barbara Gehrett then introduced nominees for the office of Deacon (Class of 2025): Madi Leifson (first term), Tom Fox (first term), Jason Bartley (first term) and Russ Guppy (first term). No nominations were offered from the floor.

**Motion:** It was moved, seconded, and approved that the nominations for Deacon be closed.

**Motion:** It was moved, seconded, and approved that the nominees be elected.

Pastor Jacobsen temporarily left the meeting so that Tim Kleefeld, representing the Finance Committee, could present the Pastor's Terms of Call.

**Senior Pastor Eric Jacobsen's Compensation Package 2022-2023**

|                              |           |                   |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Salary & Housing Allowance   | \$        | 111,889.05        |
| Pension                      | \$        | 8,800.00          |
| Insurance*                   | \$        | 9,440.00          |
| Professional Expense         | \$        | 2,400.00          |
| Continuing Education Expense | \$        | 2,400.00          |
| SECA Reimbursement           | \$        | 7,677.60          |
| Flex Spending Plan           | \$        | <u>3,600.00</u>   |
| <b>Total Compensation</b>    | <b>\$</b> | <b>146,206.65</b> |

\*The cost of insurance includes an estimate for the 2023 calendar year.

Next year's rates are not yet available.

**Motion:** It was moved, seconded, and carried that the Pastor's Terms of Call be accepted.

There being no further business, it was moved, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed in prayer by Barbara Gehrett.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Eric Jacobsen, Moderator

## Congregational Meeting

November 27, 2022

### **27 November 2022 - Congregational Meeting First Presbyterian Church, Tacoma, Washington**

A meeting of the Congregation was held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, November 27, 2022, following the morning worship service. The meeting was called to order in prayer at 11:33 AM by Pastor Eric Jacobsen, Moderator. The purpose was to elect two deacons and renew a current deacon for the position of deacon for the term 2023-2025. A quorum was present.

Pastor Jacobsen introduced the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Elder Barbara Gehrett, who then introduced nominees for the office of Deacon (Class of 2025): Rebecca Chapman (first term), Tony Caro (first term) and Annette Clingman (second term).

**Motion:** It was moved, seconded, and approved that the nominations for Deacon be closed.

**Motion:** It was moved, seconded, and approved that the nominees be elected.

There being no further business, it was moved, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed in prayer by Pastor Jacobsen at 11:37 AM.

These minutes were written by Wendy Hoashi-Erhardt.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Eric Jacobsen', written in a cursive style.

Rev. Eric Jacobsen, Moderator

## Congregational Meeting

February 26, 2023

### **26 February 2023 - Congregational Meeting**

#### **First Presbyterian Church, Tacoma, Washington**

A meeting of the Congregation was held in the Sanctuary on February 26, 2023, following the morning worship service. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the potential sale of roughly 16 acres of our Camp McCullough property. The meeting was informational only and not for the purpose of voting on the sale. A quorum was present.

Following a light lunch, the meeting was opened in prayer by Pastor Jacobsen, Moderator.

Pastor Jacobsen began the presentation by sharing his observation that our FPC community has shown a remarkable ability to remain united through difficult circumstances. He referenced our decision to leave the PCUSA and join ECO, our decision to eliminate the Associate Pastor position, and our navigation of the Covid pandemic. Pastor Jacobsen asserted his trust that we would be able to discuss the difficult question of selling a portion of camp while still remaining united.

He then outlined a few ground rules to guide our discussion that would help us remain united as we engaged in discussion. First, he stated that our goal should be to discover the Lord's will concerning the future of Camp McCullough. Our goal should be 'holy indifference'. By that we mean that we should be indifferent to anything other than the will of God in this situation. He encouraged everyone to take a moment and consider personal agendas that they might bring to this conversation that are not directly connected to God's will. Some grew up at camp, some have been on staff at camp, some of us met our future spouses at camp, some are really excited about real estate deals and development. Those are all wonderful things but may have very little to do with what God is calling us to do with this camp property at this time.

Keeping 'holy indifference' in mind, he mentioned that all will be invited to share questions or thoughts about this opportunity after the presentation. He asked us to maintain two practices while listening to others share their thoughts. If we found ourselves disagreeing with someone, we were to really listen to make sure we understood the point they were making and to remain open to learning from their perspective. And if we found ourselves really agreeing with someone's thoughts, we were encouraged to refrain from clapping. Clapping in support of one perspective can have the effect of shaming or provoking someone who has another point of view.

After Pastor Jacobsen's comments about process, Rory Connally took the floor and presented the history of our attempts to rectify some chronic problems we have been experiencing with Camp McCullough. He mentioned the early years when a camp director ran camp during the Summer. Following that time, we hired a Camp Director to work all year and to host outside groups to help supplement revenue. This model barely worked from a financial standpoint, and it put tremendous strain on the Camp Director. Then he talked about how when we finally realized that our church didn't have adequate human or financial resources to run the camp well, we made plans to invite partner churches to help us with camp. After years spent putting this plan together, we were unable

to persuade any partners to actually join us. Then we looked at various options for selling or developing part of the camp, but none of them seemed like a good fit. Then, finally, he talked about being approached by Renton Christian School to purchase the land for their High School.

Next Aaron Byers took the floor to talk about the deal being worked out between FPC and Renton Christian School. He showed a map detailing where the 16 acres would be located. And he showed the buffer between the ballfield and the school. Aaron mentioned our expectation that the sale would be able to generate about \$150k in income every year. He then presented a staffing plan and a prioritized list of capital projects that we would be working on as the money became available.

We then took questions from the floor and had a good conversation about the plan.

There being no further business, it was moved, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric Jacobsen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rev. Eric Jacobsen, Moderator

## Budget Overview

## Church

## First Presbyterian Church 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget

|  | 2022-2023<br>Budget | 2023-2024<br>Budget | % Change |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Church Operating Income                |                     |                     |          |
| Giving Income                          | 914,937             | 963,899             | 5.4%     |
| Income From Ministries                 | 11,120              | 12,020              | 8.1%     |
| Facility Use Income                    | 141,900             | 151,100             | 6.5%     |
| Interest, Dividend & Grant Inc         | 66,430              | 65,430              | -1.5%    |
| Miscellaneous Income                   | 1,000               | 2,000               | 100.0%   |
| Total Income                           | 1,135,387           | 1,194,449           | 5.2%     |
| Church Operating Expenses              |                     |                     |          |
| SLT & Leadership Expenses              |                     |                     |          |
| Senior Leadership Team Expense         | 298,049             | 320,357             | 7.5%     |
| Leadership, Volunteer, & Staff Expense | 4,250               | 10,250              | 141.2%   |
| Operations                             |                     |                     |          |
| Administration Expenses                | 58,520              | 65,344              | 11.7%    |
| Facilities & Equipment Expenses        | 261,732             | 279,867             | 6.9%     |
| Other Personnel Expenses               | 78,707              | 79,195              | 0.6%     |
| Spiritual Formation & Family Ministry  |                     |                     |          |
| Spiritual Formation Expenses           | 3,850               | 3,500               | -9.1%    |
| Youth Ministry Expenses                | 55,119              | 51,663              | -6.3%    |
| Kids' Ministry Expenses                | 49,627              | 51,313              | 3.4%     |
| Worship & Outreach                     |                     |                     |          |
| Worship Expenses                       | 76,546              | 81,144              | 6.0%     |
| Outreach Expenses                      | 9,500               | 9,000               | -5.3%    |
| Church Life                            |                     |                     |          |
| Church Life Expenses                   | 75,081              | 80,367              | 7.0%     |
| Communication Expenses                 | 27,483              | 28,250              | 2.8%     |
| Missions Team Expenses                 | 98,500              | 92,184              | -6.4%    |
| Deacons Expenses                       | 42,665              | 42,015              | -1.5%    |
| Total Expense                          | 1,139,629           | 1,194,449           | 4.8%     |
| Net Income                             | (4,242)             | (0)                 |          |

## Preschool

## First Presbyterian Preschool 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget

|                                     | 2022-2023<br>Annual Budget | 2023-2024<br>Annual Budget | % Change |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| First Pres Preschool Income         |                            |                            |          |
| Tuition                             | 594,072                    | 595,726                    | 0.3%     |
| Total First Pres Preschool Income   | 594,072                    | 595,726                    |          |
| First Pres Preschool Expense        |                            |                            |          |
| Personnel Costs                     | 501,132                    | 486,976                    | -2.8%    |
| Student Costs                       | 30,700                     | 38,600                     | 25.7%    |
| Admin Costs                         | 26,975                     | 24,775                     | -8.2%    |
| Facility Costs                      | 45,250                     | 48,800                     | 7.8%     |
| Total First Pres Preschool Expenses | 604,057                    | 599,151                    | -0.8%    |
| Net Ordinary Income                 | (9,985)                    | (3,425)                    |          |
| Other Income/Expense                |                            |                            |          |
| Other Income                        | 41,705                     | 25,125                     | -39.8%   |
| Other Expense                       | 31,720                     | 21,700                     | -31.6%   |
| Net Other Income                    | 9,985                      | 3,425                      |          |
| Net Income                          | (0)                        | 0                          |          |

## Camp

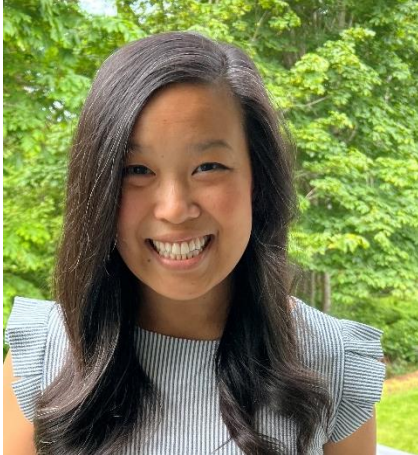
## Camp McCullough 2023-2024 Budget

|                                  | 2022-2023<br>Annual Budget | 2023-2024<br>Annual Budget | % Change |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Camp McCullough Operating Income |                            |                            |          |
| Summer Income                    | 137,885                    | 136,075                    | -1%      |
| Off-Season Income                | 37,500                     | 40,000                     | 7%       |
| Camp Events & Activities Income  | 2,500                      | 2,000                      | -20%     |
| Other Income                     | 4,505                      | 4,505                      | 0%       |
| Camp Giving Income               | 74,614                     | 72,500                     | -3%      |
| Total Camp McCullough Income     | 257,004                    | 255,080                    | -1%      |
| Camp McCullough Expenses         |                            |                            |          |
| Camp Operating Expenses          | 93,950                     | 108,435                    | 15%      |
| Camp Payroll Expenses            | 127,131                    | 123,074                    | -3%      |
| Camp Other Personnel Expenses    | 35,923                     | 23,571                     | -34%     |
| Total Camp McCullough Expenses   | 257,004                    | 255,080                    | -1%      |
| Net Income                       | 0                          | 0                          |          |



## Election of Officers

### Deacon



#### **Stephanie Fraser**

Stuart and I have been married almost 17 years this Fall, and we have 3 children, Addy, Ethan, and James. Stu's career in the Air Force moved us all over the country, and we made our final move in 2020, returning here to Washington to plant our roots. We first visited FPC in the late summer, and loved the welcome, teaching, kids' ministry, and caring for the community, in and outside the church. We became covenant partners in 2021 and have loved being a part of the FPC family. I've enjoyed serving as a greeter, teaching children's church, and being on the Gathering planning team.

My parents started attending church when I was 9 years old, we accepted Jesus together at a Bible study. It seemed my parents chose Christianity as a moral lifestyle, and so my spiritual life reflected my upbringing: achievement-oriented with little emotion or affection. I grew in my faith, but my intimacy with God was lacking. It was only in the past 10 years or so that God humbled my understanding of His grace. I'm more secure in His love, knowing that Jesus perfectly obeyed the Law. My obedience is a response of thanks, and not a requirement.

When asked to serve as a deacon, I had to examine my heart to see if the inclination to say yes was out of habit, obligation, or fear of disappointing others. The morning my answer was due, God laid on my heart a deep feeling of love for FPC, and its mission. As an outpouring of God's love to me, I'm excited to be used in serving this church community, and our surrounding neighbors.

## Pastor's Terms of Call

### Pastor's Compensation Package 2023-2024

#### Senior Pastor Compensation Package - Eric Jacobsen

|                              |           |                   |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Salary & Housing Allowance   | \$        | 117,483.50        |
| Pension                      | \$        | 11,748.35         |
| Insurance*                   | \$        | 9,440.00          |
| Professional Expense         | \$        | 2,400.00          |
| Continuing Education Expense | \$        | 2,400.00          |
| SECA Reimbursement           | \$        | 7,677.60          |
| Flex Spending Plan           | \$        | 3,600.00          |
| <b>Total Compensation</b>    | <b>\$</b> | <b>154,749.45</b> |

\*The cost of insurance includes an estimate for the 2024 calendar year. Next year's rates are not yet available.

## Staff

### Pastoral Staff

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Eric Jacobsen | Lead Pastor                                |
| Daniel Perrin | Minister of Worship                        |
| Jon Hillstead | Worship Assistant                          |
| Jean Malmin   | Minister of Visitation (February 28, 2023) |

### Program Staff

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| *Michelle Martinez | Worship and Outreach Director                    |
| McKenzie Peirson   | Youth Director                                   |
| Julie Brownlee     | Kids' Ministry, Director                         |
| *Laurel Juergens   | Spiritual Formation and Family Ministry Director |
| Patrice Barnett    | Organist   |

### Office, Administrative and Facilities

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| *Aaron Byers   | Director of Operations (church and school) |
| Karen Ackerson | Congregational Life and Office Coordinator |
| Alex Kelly     | Communications                             |
| David Spencer  | Building Superintendent                    |
| Ian Martinez   | Communications and Custodian, part time    |
| Patty Johnson  | South Building Custodian                   |

### Preschool

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Becky Stickler     | Co-Director                               |
| Lucy Leach         | Co-Director                               |
| Courtney Buchholtz | Administrative and Admissions Coordinator |

### Camp

|                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Torin Holmes    | Interim Operations Manager |
| Keelin Maurmann | Interim Program Manager    |
| Josh Maurmann   | Caretaker                  |

\* denotes SLT-Senior Leadership Team