

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



First Presbyterian Church

131 Big Valley Street
Boone, North Carolina 28607

Our Mission Statement:

*"A family of faith Called to Grow in the love of Christ,
Share that Good News, and Serve the world."*

2022 Annual Report

First Presbyterian Church

131 Big Valley Street
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828-264-3906

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A Year in Review - From our Pastor



Dear FPC Family of Faith,

The prophet Isaiah declares, *“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”* (Isaiah 43:18-19). 2022 has been a year of God doing a new thing, shaking things up a bit for our church, but in doing so, providing living water in the wilderness. Coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic has been different; not like the past where our worship numbers and church attendance were higher. We all noticed that people were missing – some had disengaged in the life of the church, others stayed home and worshipped online, and others left and went elsewhere. It would be easy to become discouraged, trying to continue as we’ve done in the past, but God was doing a new thing at FPC.

That new thing came with changes to our staffing. Lisa Combs, our Chancel Choir Director, moved to Mooresville, NC and began a new call, which shook up our traditional music staff. God led us to move Brandon Winbush from being our pianist to being our Choir Director, and in due time, God led us to Tyler Del-laperute, who has so blessed our worship with his amazing talents on the piano. In addition, God called Grant Mills into a new ministry path in February and so Steve Marks and I took over to continue our youth ministry until a suitable director can be found. Change... sometimes it’s hard, but it can also be a blessing.

Speaking of such blessings, our church shifted majorly by moving from two worship services (a contemporary and a traditional service) to one blended worship service in October. Such a change could cause major division in a congregation, but it has united us even more! The spirit of worship and the fellowship of being together as one church has not only blessed us, but we’ve seen God bring new people to our fellowship and others who had been missing come back. Our worship attendance has grown from the barrenness of two services to the fullness of one. In fact, this year we had 32 new members join the church, of which ten were confirmands. We’ve had our children return to worship and have celebrated God’s claim through the waters of baptism on a number of them this year.

A new thing! We opened our building back up to be used as a tool for ministry hosting our BSF (Bible Study Fellowship) community group, providing space to our Hispanic friends to worship, and have chartered Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack 100, and we started a new Sunday school class for families with young children. When needs arose, God provided generously through gifts that helped us purchase new projectors for the sanctuary to enhance worship, and new tables in the multi-purpose room so we can break bread together.

Our church continues to serve our community through mission, but God has done a new thing, allowing us to establish a connection to serve Ukrainian refugees through World Relief in the Triad. And all of you have supported me through my own personal research for my doctoral project on evangelism, which will provide us with a way forward to be more intentional in our ongoing outreach efforts in the years to come. Throughout the pages of this report you will find many ways in which God has provided living water in the desert, just as he did for the Israelites in exile. My prayer is that we will continue to see this, celebrate it, and participate in God’s redemptive work together in the year to come!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jeff

Staff

Rev. Jeff Smith, Pastor
Steve Marks, Pastoral Associate, Interim College Director
Jennifer Jones, Office Administrator
Erin Fowler, Director of Children's Ministry
Grant Mills, Director of Youth & College Ministry (Jan-Feb)
Lisa Combs, Chancel Choir & Handbell Director (Jan-May)
Cindy Clawson, First Light Director
Brandon Winbush, Pianist (Jan-Aug)
Chancel Choir Director (May-Dec)
Tyler, Dellaperute, Pianist (Aug-Dec)
Sylvia Rippy, Handbell Director (Aug-Dec)
Amber Kanoy, First Morning Out Director

Elders

Melissa Bryan
Neville Chaney
Susan Corey
Ruth Dotson
Russell Headrick
Kim McAulay
Alice McRae
Garry Moss
Sue Newell
Harris Prevost
Cathy Simpson-Koch
Greg Warmuth

Deacons

Pete Barr
Jane Butler
Mary Linda Dooley
Steve Edwards
Christine Leist
Katherine Logan
Craig McKinney
Liz Michael
Chris Nault
Linda Ruff
Angela Smith
Jo Sorrell

Baptisms

Mondale Baker
Justin Cox
Caleb Dewey
Genesis Dingle
Cameron Glover
Scarlett Moree
Stella Moree
Cody Talton

Deaths

Robert Gragg
Rachel Sterrett

New Members

Melissa Bahleda
Tom Bahleda
Mondale Baker
Abby Barr
Joe Brown
Laura Brown
Luke Bryan
Claire Cours

Justin Cox
Laura Cox
Caleb Dewey
Genesis Dingle
Katie Harrison
Dot Hutelmyer
Elizabeth Hill
Lindsay Jackson

Thomas Lehman
Patrick Moree
Taylor Moree
Thomas Moss
Beth Parrott
Mac Parrott
Beth Savage
Daniel Shive

Liz Shive
Brennan Smith
Linda Steinbach
David Still
Erin Still
Cody Talton
Madelyn Trexler
Sullivan Trexler

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Moderator: *Harris Prevost*, Elder

Co-Moderator: *Susan Corey*, Elder

Children's Ministry

The Children's Ministry saw regular Sunday school and Reach Wednesday attendance return in 2022. On Sunday mornings the children worshiped our Lord with music accompanied by Kevin Hutlemyer's guitar and then divided into two groups taught by Elizabeth Hutlemyer, Dawn Talton, Rebecca Liljestrand, Dot Hutlemyer, and Ashley McKinney for Bible lessons, games, and crafts. Our Bible-in-Life Curriculum themes confirmed that "We are important to Jesus" and showed us how to continue "Following God with Courage." Our Advent study used four popular hymns to study Jesus's birth with the help of parent volunteers.

HayDay Vacation Bible School took place on the evenings of July 10th-13th. Sixty children and forty youth and adult volunteers participated in farm-themed music, games, community projects, and daily activities pointing them to the love of Jesus. Highlights included the humor of Greg Langdon's character, Sunflower Sam, singing and dancing with Sofie Crump and a hayride made possible by Kelvin Gryder's tractor and wagon. Church Life hosted a hotdog dinner and Jack and Emma Lewis provided cotton candy from their machine.

Reach Wednesday returned in person in August with many children. Our nursery group played and heard a Bible story accompanied by a craft. Children, ages kindergarten through 5th grade, responded to the parables of Jesus by making Lego depictions of the stories. Reach Wednesday teacher Jo Sorrell also directed the children in playing the melodee bells. The children took part in the Lovefeast's worship time with "Away in a Manger."



Monthly events included a movie afternoon, Easter egg hunt, Mother's Day tea, ice cream with dads, Advent wreath making, and a Christmas party. Children made Valentine cards for shut-ins and cookies to show appreciation for firefighters. Children served during Gathering to Serve morning by making blessing bags for the homeless. The first Friday evening of every month, a Parents Night Out event was held on the playground and inside the church with games and dinner.

New and old faces in the children's ministry spurred on much activity and growth in 2022. With our nursery full every week, childcare workers were great blessings as well as devoted volunteers in Sunday school, Reach Wednesday, and Vacation Bible School.

Erin Fowler, Children's Ministry Director

YOUTH MINISTRY

2022 was an interesting but great year for our middle and high school youth. Grant Mills, our Director of Youth, stepped down to pursue a different path of ministry at the end of February and Pastor Jeff and Steve Marks took on the responsibility of leading the students in March, until a suitable director could be found in March. A search started in June, but we have not yet found the person God is calling to this position. Nonetheless, God has blessed this ministry as our students have eagerly been involved in many activities and spiritual growth opportunities.



We had ten high school students go through our confirmation process and were confirmed in May. They spent a lot of time getting to know one another, their covenant family leaders, and learning why we believe what we believe. They grew close to one another through small group discussions, organized fun activities and even by serving at RAM's Rack one Saturday.

In July, we had four high school guys who participated in the Passport Mission Conference in Greensboro, NC. They served at the Salvation Army thrift store and led in worship throughout the week. This trip was a catalyst that has 15 students signed up to go this summer! In addition to this, there were other summer events in which our students were able to be together and learn about God.



Our Sunday night youth group gatherings are strong, averaging between 12-20 students each Sunday. Every Thursday morning during the school year we have a high school prayer breakfast at Chick-Fil-A where 7-13 students gather every week for fellowship and a brief devotion and prayer before school.



We participated in a retreat weekend to Dollywood in September and participated in the Feed the Hunger mission gathering in October. In addition, we started a high school boys church basketball team in December – the first time in well over ten years.



God has blessed our efforts as a church to serve our students and we look forward to another great year of gathering and growing together in Christ!

Jeff Smith, Pastor

ADULT EDUCATION

The year 2022 was a transitional year for Christian education as we navigated through the lingering Covid pandemic. Our Sunday School classes continued to meet weekly, moving to more of in-person gathering with some folks still on Zoom. Eight different classes were offered each week, with content ranging from traditional biblical studies to current topics on various social concerns. We were excited to add our eighth class this year to provide an opportunity for our younger adults and families to form bonds while learning about discipleship together.

Our Sunday School classes also combined for a special church-wide program offered by Pastor Jeff Smith, entitled “Images of Jesus.” This seven-week class examined various works of art and how the images were associated with the role of Jesus as Savior, as Healer, as Giver of Life, as God with Us, as a champion for Social Justice, as Teacher, and as Liberator. This class was part of Pastor Jeff’s doctorate project on evangelism and how the church and its members understand the call to make disciples of all nations.

This year we certainly recognized the impact Covid has made on in-person meetings. While one of our small groups continued to meet together in person at the church, the others disbanded for the year. We will continue to explore options for this ministry. One highlight of the year involved our Reach Wednesday programming which resumed in-person in the fall of 2022. All of the classes met at the church, with the women’s Bible study class offering a Zoom option for folks who desired this format. The in-person classes included the Knarthex Knitters, Officer Training for newly elected Elders & Deacons, Caregiving Essentials, and Cornhole and Colossians: an intergenerational study and activity program, as well as programming for our youth and children.

Church members and class facilitators continued to rely on the use of RightNow Media. It’s essentially the “Netflix of Video Bible Studies” offering instant access to thousands of great videos for kids, youth, parents, married couples and more. RightNow Media can be accessed from a smartphone, tablet, or computer. The church underwrites the cost of this service and offers it to our members and guests for free! RightNow Media is available for all of our adult ministry activities in addition to use by individuals and families at any time.

Steve Marks, Adult Ministry Director

CHURCH LIFE

Moderator: Sue Newell, Elder

Co-Moderator: Alice McRae, Elder

Church Life

Members: Jane Butler, Sharon Carlton, Sandy Kesler, Vicki Krueger, Katherine Logan, Beth Savage, Connie Walter

Mission: To involve members and friends of the congregation in the life of the church by creating opportunities, guided by the Holy Spirit, to grow and to share our faith, hope, and love in relationship with others.

We started off in January 2022 praying for direction for Church Life since so much had been cancelled in 2021 due to Covid. We were excited to be able to help facilitate the following in 2022:

- Easter Covered Dish Celebration Brunch was held on April 17 before the worship service. Everyone was encouraged to bring a favorite finger food or breakfast casserole. Clean up happened after the service so everyone could worship our Risen Lord together.
- Welcome Team luncheon was held in March to help the team get to know each other, and understand the importance of what greeters do, and provide in person training.
- Church Directory update – the congregation was invited to submit an updated photo for the directory. We shared with the church family that they could update the Church Directory themselves without involving Jennifer.
- Sponsored three Wonderful Wednesdays in June. They were not all well attended, but it was a special time for those who gathered!

June 1... Tailgate – Bring your own dinner with games.



June 15... Juneteenth – BBQ dinner from Publix and a wonderful interactive program was provided by the Community Relations Team.



June 29... Scavenger Hunt – after sharing a Bring your own dinner, teams worked together to find places in the church that fit the challenging clues. The evening ended with an Ice cream social!



July 13... VBS Celebration – Church Life provided support for their hot dog dinner.

August 7... Church Covered Dish Picnic at Valle Crucis Park with “Get to Know You” questions at each table. Scott Mayes once again coordinated buying and preparing the burgers and hot dogs and the “fixins.” It was a beautiful day with a great turnout!



Since the New Member Sunday was on the same day as the Feed the Hunger food packing event, we decided to make Welcome Bags for new members which included: a card to welcome them to the FPC family, a FPC note pad, FPC car sticker, instructions for Instant Church Directory, homemade pumpkin bread, special stickers and goodies just for the children, invitation to our Thanksgiving meal, and an order form to order FPC t-shirts for each member of the family (Paid for by Communications).

Thanksgiving Meal – due to communication challenges with the food coordinator at the Hospitality House, we only had about 10 guests that Vicki picked up from there. However, we were blessed to have some of the people from the Hispanic Church that meets at FPC join us, as well as 2 Ukrainian refugee families that met for the first time that evening!

Coffee Ministry – we decided since there is now only one worship service, that we could start a simple version of the coffee ministry downstairs for the Sunday School classes. Some Sunday School classes have agreed to take turns making the coffee and cleaning up. Regular and decaf coffee is currently being served in the front office.

Clergy Appreciation Month – Church Life helped facilitate getting the word out to encourage the congregation to send cards and potentially make donations to local ministries in honor of Pastor Jeff and Steve. Katherine Logan presented the cards to Jeff and Steve during worship

COMMUNICATIONS

Moderator: *Cathy Simpson-Koch*, Elder

The Mission of the Communications Team is to share our Mission Statement:

*“A family of faith Called to Grow in the love of Christ,
Share that Good News, and Serve the world.”*

Methods of Communication post Covid include:

- Zoom
- Facebook page
- In Contact - our weekly church newsletter
- Welcome/Connect cards
- Flyers of upcoming events inserted into the church bulletin
- Email
- YouTube
- Signs by the roadside
- Face to Face gatherings with optional masks being worn
- Phone calls to those not seen in some time
- Cards, letters, and e-cards to bring spiritual uplifting/care
- “Text in Church” notification of events and weather changes of the church
- FPC note pads available to new members and church staff
- FPC t-shirts available for order/purchase to congregational members
- FPC t-shirts available at no cost to new members joining the church as a one time offer
- Support of the Welcome Greeters for Sunday morning church service
- Communication Committee meetings to continually search for improved communication methods to reach others

The Communications Committee meets monthly, via Zoom.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Congregational Care committee serves as an adjunct of the Diaconate of the church with a mission to provide loving and compassionate care when needed, according to the season of life or needs which arise from birth, illness, hospitalization, or death within a family. The committee serves in various capacities, with primary responsibility for the following five initiatives in Congregational Care:

Comfort Kitchen - This ministry team is dedicated to preparing homemade, individually packaged meals for our sick and homebound. Arlene Steeves, Claudia Bake, Carolyn Banzhaf, Anna Eyler, and Linda Phelan keep our church freezer stocked with healthy, tasty meals to be distributed by church members to anyone in need of a comforting meal. This year the Comfort Kitchen Team prepared 189 meals!

Birthday Cards - This ministry team sends a birthday card to each of our church members in celebration of their special day. The Birthday Card Team consists of Julia Pedigo, Mary Linda Dooly, and Gay Lynn Williams.

Care Givers Ministry – This ministry, coordinated by Pat Weaver, provides spiritual care for the church's homebound, sick and out-of-town members. Several members of our congregation participate in this ministry by regularly sending cards, making phone calls, and visiting individuals in their homes or care facilities. They provide a source of comfort and love while deepening relationships with care receivers and their families. This year a total of 675 cards were sent and countless phone calls made!

Knarthex Knitters - This ministry is comprised of a dedicated group of knitters, coordinated by Julia Pedigo and Margaret Gregor. This year they have resumed meeting on Wednesday evenings. The Knarthex Knitters knit lapghans and shawls for folks who have both health concerns and celebrations, pray over the lapghans and shawls and then deliver them with an appropriate message of love. This year they knitted 11 lapghans and shawls!

New Chapter Widow's Group - This ministry, facilitated by Sharon Carlton, provides support to women who have experienced the loss of their spouses. Through monthly get-togethers, meals, fellowship, service projects and calls, the group provides community and encouragement for one another through the grieving process. In November the group attended Grief Share's "Surviving the Loss of a Spouse" program in preparation for the holiday season. New Chapter members include First Presbyterian members and widows from our larger community.

The Congregational Care Committee typically meets every other month and will convene more often when needs arise.

Steve Marks, Pastoral Associate

DEACONS' FUND

Medical Expenses	\$5,000.00
Food Cards for Angel Tree	3,353.75
Mower	350.00
Mowing Expenses	<u>320.00</u>
Total Distribution	\$9,023,75

Respectfully submitted; *Ben Miller*, Treasurer

2022 ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

This year Session approved our motion that the Endowment Committee term limits be removed from our By Laws. Currently our members are Wayne Steeves, chair; Neville Chaney, vice chair; Gary Moss, secretary; Bill Caroselli Jr., treasurer; Harris Prevost and Keith Ogden at large members. Please let one of us know if you have an interest in serving on this committee.

This was a very difficult year in the market with the S&P500 index down 18.4%. The funds that we manage were down 12.7% (\$99,247). Activity in each of those funds was as follows:

	Bal 12/31/21	Gain (Loss)	Receipts	Expended	Bal 12/31/22
Main Fund	\$736,137	(\$93,461)	\$58,345	(\$33,000)	\$668,021
FMO Fund	<u>45,574</u>	<u>(5,786)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(2,512)</u>	<u>37,276</u>
Total	\$781,711	(\$99,247)	\$58,345	(\$35,512)	\$705,297

The receipt was a gift from the Delores Bell Estate.

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Per agreement with Session and the Mission Committee, the main fund is managed with a reserve arrangement. Each calendar quarter 1% of the quarter ending balance is put in the mission project reserve, and 1/2% into a capital needs reserve. The mission committee and session then use these reserves on an as need basis. Activity in those reserves for 2022 was as follow:

	Mission Projects	Capital Needs	Total Reserves
Balance 12/31/21	\$12,967	\$ 43,160	\$ 56,127
Delores Bell Gift	\$58,345	0	\$ 58,345
Add per agreement	27,212	13,606	40,818
Expended	<u>(28,000)</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>(\$33,000)</u>
Balances 12/31/22	\$ 70,524	\$ 51,766	\$122,290

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Submitted by *Wayne Steeves*, Chair

FINANCE / STEWARDSHIP

Moderator: *Gary T. Moss Jr.*, Elder

Co-Moderator: *Greg Warmuth*, Elder

Committee Members: Wayne Steeves, Betsy Payne, Ben Miller, Justin Cox

Attending: Jennifer Jones

We started this year with a budgeted and expected deficit. We ended the year with a net income of \$71,779.68 as detailed below. In addition, our membership made substantial contributions to support the Deacons' Fund and local Disaster Relief projects which are detailed in other places of this Annual Report. The presence of the Holy Spirit continues to lead our membership.

2022 Revenues	Amount	Percent	2023 Anticipated	Amount
Pledges	\$629,260	84.54%	Pledges	\$553,810
Member Giving	33,614	4.52%	Member Giving	26,740
Loose Offerings	52,282	7.02%	Loose Offerings	24,000
Endowment	28,000	3.76%	Endowment	28,000
Interest Income	1,218	0.16%	Interest Income	12,000
Total Income	744,376	100.00%	Total Income	\$644,550
2022 Expenses			2023 Budget	
Administration	\$426,239	63.37%	Pastor's Salary	\$135,551
Congregational Care	1,394	0.21%	Staff Salaries	307,667
Building & Grounds	106,958	15.90%	Church Management	36,950
Missions (see report)	99,799	14.84%	Congregational Care	1,600
Worship	17,452	2.59%	Building & Grounds	85,359
Children's Education	9,893	1.47%	Missions	99,800
Youth Education	7,073	1.05%	Worship	22,450
Adult Education	1,472	0.22%	Children's Education	23,000
Church Life	1,571	0.23%	Youth Education	10,950
Communications	741	0.11%	Adult Education	3,100
Total Expenses	\$672,596	100.00%	Church Life	4,900
			Communications	1,245
Net Income	\$71,779	10.67%	Total Expenses	\$732,573

MISSION

Moderator: *Ruth Dotson*, Elder

The Mission Committee has joyfully embraced the church's vision that we are called to Grow in the love of Christ, Share that good news, and Serve the world. The members of the committee have prayerfully considered how financial and other resources of this church will be most impactful in serving others in the name of Christ locally and around the world.

First Presbyterian Church continues to give generously with financial gifts, time and talents. Our special Lenten Mission Offering raised \$28,290.80 which was distributed to local aid organizations including the Hunger and Health Coalition, Casting Bread/Travis' Lunchbox, Hospitality House, WeCan, and Blowing Rock Cares to assist their efforts in a time of great need. The special offering at the December Moravian Love Feast also collected \$1,143.00 which went to Travis' Lunchbox and Hunger and the Health Coalition.

On a rainy day in September, members and friends gave of their time and talent throughout our community at *Gathering to Serve*. Organizations served included Hunger and Health Coalition, Community Care Clinic, RAM's Rack, and Casting Bread/Travis' Lunchbox. Volunteers also sang and provided music to shut-ins and children prepared blessing bags for the homeless. Volunteers also prepared lunch for those who went into the community to serve.

In October, the congregation met for a "Pack-a-thon" sponsored through *Feed the Hunger*, and packed approximately 12,000 meals to be sent to areas at risk of famine.

FPC members and friends also provided Christmas gifts for 49 local school children in need and packed 76 shoeboxes for Samaritan Purse's Operation Christmas Child program.

Other organizations and individuals that FPC supported in 2022 include:

- \$13,000.00 - **Hebron USA** works with the Presbyterian Church and the indigenous people of Chiapas, Mexico through supporting the **Las Manos de Christo Medical Clinic** Starting in 2003, members of FPC have traveled to volunteer at the clinic and work on construction projects.
- \$10,000.00 - **Hunger and Health Coalition** is a local resource for members of our community who need assistance with basic needs such as food and prescription medications.
- \$10,000.00 - **Hospitality House** serves seven northwestern NC counties and has been combating homelessness, hunger and poverty since 1984.
- \$10,000.00 - **WeCan (Western Crisis Assistance Network)** provides crisis assistance with heating bills, housing and other needs while providing guidance and education to those in crisis.
- \$7,123.28 - **Food 4 Families** provides summer food deliveries to support at-risk families in western Watauga County.
- \$7,000.00 - **Kari's Home** for women and **Freedom Farm Ministries** for men provide Christian counseling and housing for those seeking to be out of bondage of alcohol and drug addiction.
- \$7,000.00 - **Real Love Haiti** seeks to invest in the lives of the people of Haiti with the love, mercy and power of Jesus. Core ministries include an orphanage, medical clinic, school, ministry to widows, marriage counseling and water filters.
- \$6,600.00 – Missionaries **Will and Maggie Sabillo** moved from Boone to Quezon City, Philippines in July, where they work with the International Graduate School Leadership Program with a vision to build Christian leaders and missionaries to serve throughout the world.
- \$ 6,200.00 - **Appalachian State Presbyterian/Episcopal Campus Ministry** provides Bible studies and Christian fellowship to students.
- \$5,000.00 - **International Partnerships** is based in Kyiv and has served the people of the war zone of eastern Ukraine since 2014 through providing food and supplies.
- \$5,000.00 – **Harvest House Ukrainian Relief** partners with a sister church in Vinnytsia, Ukraine who provides shelter, transportation, food and Christian love to the refugees of the war in Ukraine.
- \$5,000.00 - **High Country Prison Ministries** supports the chaplain at the Avery-Mitchell correction facility and works with **Forgiven Ministries/One Day with God** program to unite inmates with their children.
- \$3,000.00 - **Casting Bread Ministries/Travis' Lunchbox** provides food, community and compassion in association with Faithbridge United Methodist Church in Blowing Rock.

- \$2,500.00 – **One Day with God** operates camps within prisons and provides an opportunity for inmates and their children to reconcile with one another and spend time together in a Christian setting.
- \$2,040.00 – **Feed the Hunger** provides an opportunity to pack meals for people at risk of malnutrition and starvation.
- \$2,000.00 - **RAM (Resort Area Ministries)** provides local campground worship services, an affordable Thrift Store, and home repair projects to those in need.
- \$1,200.00 – **Will Barbour - ETSU Campus Ministry** - Will Barbour grew up at First Presbyterian Boone and serves as the campus minister for Reformed University Fellowship at ETSU.
- \$1,000.00 - **Wood Lot Ministry** is a partnership with Grace Lutheran Church and collects, splits, and stores donated firewood for those who need winter heating assistance.
- \$1,000.00 – donated in gift cards to help struggling local Ukrainian refugee families.
- \$500.00 – **World Relief Triad** provides housing and support for newly arriving refugees.
- \$500.00 – donated to help with utilities for a local Ukrainian couple.
- \$250.00 – **Appalachian State Food Pantry** provides food and snacks for college students in need.
- \$200.00 - **Back-to-School Festival** was created to help with the heavy financial burden that back-to-school shopping creates for local families.

Many thanks to members of the committee as well as many others who helped throughout the year.



PROPERTY AND PERSONNEL

Moderator: *Russell Headrick*, Elder

Co-Moderator: *Neville Chaney*, Elder

Personnel

Staff Changes:

Grant Mills resigned his position as Youth Director, and Pastor Jeff and Steve Marks agreed to divide that position's responsibilities pending hiring a new Youth Director. Lisa Combs resigned as Choir Director, and Brandon Winbush became both Choir Director and Pianist, until Tyler Dellaperute was hired as Pianist.

FMO successfully completed the 2022 Winter/Spring and Fall Sessions:

After remaining closed for half of 2021, FMO returned to normal operation, successfully completing both sessions of 2022, under the leadership of Amber Kanoy, Director, and with the active support of the FMO Advisory Board.

Property

Return to Normal Building Operations:

With the end of most Covid restrictions, the building returned to mostly normal usage during 2022.

Building Repair/Maintenance Issues:

New computer-operated thermostats, together with upgrades to the computer system, were installed early in the year to help save saving energy costs. 2022 also saw repairs/upgrades to the phone system due to incompatibility with the security network.

Building Exterior Repair Issues:

While continuing to work with REI, our consulting engineers, on the design solution to building envelope issues, continued shortages of materials and labor and volatility in prices counselled delaying implementation of this project through 2022. Due to this delay, we have worked with REI to determine whether interim repairs to stabilize the building exterior problems are warranted, but this issue presents the dilemma of whether temporary repairs verses commencing the full-on project is the most cost-effective way to address this issue.

WORSHIP

Moderator: *Melissa Bryan*, Elder

Co-Moderator: *Kim McAulay*, Elder

Mission: To enhance worship which involves all generations through drama, liturgical dance, singing, teaching, and preaching, so the congregation of First Presbyterian Church experiences the joy and wonder of God and gives God praise and adoration.

Accomplishments for 2022

Worship services remained in-person with two separate services until October of 2022 where the Worship Committee and Session, based on the feedback of members, requested one blended service of Praise and Worship. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and church service attendance has increased above and beyond the numbers from two separate services. Members and visitors are enjoying the blended music from the Choir and Praise Band.

Moravian Lovefeast: After a two year hiatus due to Covid, the Moravian Lovefeast returned with a full sanctuary of patrons and a beautiful vocal and instrumental service and lesson, while diners passed sweet buns and coffee.

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day services: Unfortunately these services were canceled due to bitter arctic cold temperatures and treacherous roads to ensure the safety and well-being of all members and staff. Pastor Jeff provided a live and recorded homily on Christmas Day.

Music scholarships: The Worship Committee funded the three First Light Praise Team scholarships, one handbell scholarship, and Brandon was able to bring on three scholarship recipients in the choir.

Personnel Changes: Lisa Combs moved to the Mooresville area mid year and Brandon Winbush moved from Pianist to the Choir Director role. We were fortunate to be able to hire the talented Tyler Del-laperute to fill Brandon's previous pianist position.

Other activities:

- We were able to add a new volunteer in the sound booth utilizing one of our youth, Will Leist. Pete Barr, Sue Newell, Susan Corey and Kelvin Gryder continued to be instrumental in providing support to that ministry to enhance our worship experience. Additionally, we continued to have the ability to Livestream our service each week.
- Lenten Worship services included Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Flowers were made available for families to participate in "The Flowering of the Cross."
- The Worship Committee renewed the ProPresenter license for the software used for services within the sanctuary.
- The Worship Committee was able to replace the remaining two projectors in the sanctuary due to the generosity of a \$100,000.00 gift to the church earmarked for such needs.



First Presbyterian Church

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