



**2020 Annual Report**  
**The First Presbyterian Church of Northport, NY**  
**Founded 1785**

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The First Presbyterian Church of Northport  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
March 14, 2021  
11:00 AM  
Docket

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum—Rev. Rachel Vione, Moderator
2. Opening Prayer
3. Approval of the Docket
4. Review of the 2020 Finances---Peggy Denniston, Finance Ministry Chair
  - a. Overview of 2021 Budget
5. Report of the All Church Nominating Committee—Elder Cindy Mies, ACNC Chair
  - a. Election of a Ruling Elder to fill an unexpired term – Kim Gilbert
  - b. Election of an additional member to the All Church Nominating Committee  
  
Tim Gladding
6. Review of the 2020 Annual Reports
7. Review from the Reopening Task Force – Elder Lisa Nikrant
8. Pastors Remarks
9. Delegate Reading and Approval of Minutes to the Session
10. Prayer and adjournment

March 2021

My Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church of Northport,

Take a deep breath. Let it out slowly.

Now let's reflect on the year 2020. By now you have all heard the different ways 2020 has been described: a year like no other, a year we would like to forget, an unprecedented time, a year of loss, a year of sadness. A year of...we can all fill in our own blanks when it comes to describing 2020.

For all the sorrow and sadness that 2020 brought, there were still many blessings and unexpected ways we have been called to be the Church of Jesus Christ for such a time as this.

One year ago, we gathered on Sunday, March 8, 2020 to worship and celebrate the Lord's Supper together. Session had voted to move communion to the second Sunday of the month because I was away with our Youth Group on a Mission Trip to Philadelphia on March 1. Little did we know that second Sunday in March would be the last time we would gather together for worship in the sanctuary for over a year.

To be sure, 2020 had its good points as well, especially when it comes to our community of faith at FPC. I would like to highlight a few of those good points:

Our online worship services have been well-attended this past year. Thanks to Joe & Nancy Winkler, and Kevin McKerr, we have not missed a beat in providing meaningful worship services during this time when we are not able to worship together in person. Many who would not be able to worship with us on Sunday mornings are able to worship with us online. Some as far away as Italy and Austria have worshipped with us thanks to our online presence.

Thanks to our Deacons and Membership Ministries, we have reached out to church members by delivering communion elements, Advent calendars, Christmas Eve candles, Easter plants, and sent out Christmas cards, and hand-written note cards to all of our members.

Our music staff has continued to provide musical selections, hymns, anthems and responses for our online worship services. Director of music, Brenda Clark has provided meaningful preludes and postludes and Chancel Choir Director, Dana Warren and Children's Choir Director, Ariana Warren along with their family members Marie and Andrew have provided anthems and hymns that are sublime. Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service was well-attended and was designed to make us all feel like we were worshipping together.

Through the use of technology, we have been able to combine elements from past worship services with current services to make sure we are worshipping and glorifying God together in a meaningful way while we are doing so virtually.

We have continued to meet for prayer and devotions every Wednesday at noon for the past year. This has become an important small group ministry of the church and a vital way to stay connected.

By sending twice weekly emails, I have been able to keep in touch with the congregation about what is happening at the church and keep you updated as things change.

The Ecumenical Lay Council Food Pantry, housed in our building, has continued to help those in need in our community. The volunteers have stood outside in the rain, snow and freezing cold to ensure that our clients are cared for and supported.

Our Stewardship and Finance Ministries have worked to make sure that we are in good shape financially and are good stewards of all that God has given us. Thanks to the PPP loan we have been able to keep our hard-working staff employed throughout the pandemic.

We have also retired our debt by paying off our mortgage! This is great news! Thanks to all who participated in the “Burn the Mortgage” campaign. Indeed, we will actually *burn the mortgage* once we are able to gather together again.

All of these things are reminders that the Holy Spirit is alive and well at FPC!

Of course, the most exciting thing that happened for me personally in 2020, was that you voted to call me as your Pastor! I am honored and humbled to serve alongside all of you in ministry as we are *called as partners in Christ’s service*. I can’t wait to see what God will do next in the life and ministry of this vital congregation...and I can’t wait to get back to worshipping with you on Sunday mornings in our beloved sanctuary!

So...take a deep breath. Let it out slowly...and get ready for what God is going to do next at FPC!

I am reminded of this blessing from Paul’s letter to the Philippians:

*“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*  
(Philippians 4:4-7)

With much joy in serving as your Pastor!

Rachel

## **Clerk's Report**

Session's year started as normal. Who knew that within two months of our January meeting life as we all knew it would change so dramatically. We held our Annual Congregational Meeting on February 9 wherein we elected our new officers: Elders Pat Bell, Cathy Coleman, David Ofsharick for 3 year terms; Cindy Mies and Anita Stambouly for second 3 year terms; Julia Graziano, Youth Elder for a 1 year term and Carole Gandy for an unexpired 1 year term; and Deacons Jeannie Reed and Alan Schorn for 3 year terms; Sue Ebert, Carolyn Louis and Jeannie Obrien for second 3 years terms; Lorelei Heuer, Youth Deacon for a 1 year term and Jack Fink for an unexpired 1 year term. We were to have held our Officer's Retreat on March 28 and our new officers were to be ordained and installed that Sunday. However, life got put on hold, the retreat was never held; and they were not ordained and/or installed until Sunday, January 24, 2021. We were very grateful they were all still willing and able to serve! We have all learned to Zoom, Google Meet and have "hybrid" congregational meetings. But, throughout, your Session has continued to meet on a monthly basis except for our usual break in the summer months. Our meetings open with prayer and devotions by Elders each month which this year included readings from C.S. Lewis on prayer; "Stop, Breath and Smile" based on Romans II v. 1-6; Good News Bible translation of Psalm 121 which was very appropriate for what the world was experiencing at the time; Daily Inspirations for Women; Apache and Native American Prayers for Peace; Small Graces – An Offering for a Quiet God; devotion based on Joshua 1:9 ("I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go"); Desiderata – "Go placidly amid the noise and the haste and remember what peace there may be in silence"; and reflections from Pastor Rachel with a reminder that our Christ Candle is always lit during our meetings as it is important to have our light shining during these difficult dark days.

Your church officers - Elders and Deacons - have remained fully engaged throughout this past year and you will be able to read each of their individual ministry reports.

Our corporate officers have remained as Marcia Mercer, President; Carole Gandy, Secretary; Bob Spiller, Treasurer; and Mary Blondrage, Financial Secretary; and I was approved as Clerk for an additional one year term.

We were deeply saddened to lose two members of our church in 2020: Ken Landi and Steve Siegmann. These losses have been made all the more difficult for family members as well as our church family since we were not able to properly mourn and gather together in their memories. We hold them all in our hearts and look forward to the day when we can all gather together as one.

Last but not least, I would like to thank our Pastor Nominating Committee for a job well done! I thank you for all your efforts, due diligence, prayerful decision making and total dedication to a two year process in bringing closure to our congregation's search for a pastor. Thankfully and gratefully Pastor Rachel Vione was approved to be our Pastor. A light at the end of a very long year!

I pray you all remain safe and healthy, and that in the not-so-distant future we can gather once again in our beautiful sanctuary and worship and sing and pray together as one.

Marcia Mercer, Clerk of Session

## **Board of Deacons**

### **Class of 2021**

Melissa Barasch  
Elizabeth Coleman  
Jack Fink  
Marjorie Sundquist  
Tiffany Thomas  
Lorelei Heuer (youth)

### **Class of 2022**

Jim Beyer  
Marlena Dentrone  
Tim Gladding  
Robin O'Neill Gonzalez  
Shelley Pierce (co-moderator)

### **Class of 2023**

Sue Ebert (co-moderator)  
Carolyn Louis  
Jeannie Obrien, Treasurer  
Jeannie Reed  
Alan Schorn

- We gratefully recognize the contributions of Deacons Jim Denniston, Vicki Field, and Jane Hudson, who concluded their term of service in 2020.
- The Board of Deacons is a ministry of caring and service to our church members, to the community, and to the world at large. Funds for our ministry primarily come from donations to the Deacons' Fund in the small brown envelopes found in our pews, and gifts to the church that are designated for the Deacons' fund.
- We began 2020 with our January 13 blood drive.
- In February, a contribution of \$1,400.USD was made from the Deacons' Fund to Australian Red Cross Wild Fire Relief.
- Events cancelled for Covid-19 include: Officers' Retreat, Annual Pioneers Brunch, Fall Blood Drive.
- Emergency Meals were still prepared and delivered to families in need.
- Beginning in April, our meetings were held virtually, via ZOOM.
- In anticipation of Easter, we delivered spring plants to the homes of our senior members.
- To mark Advent, we delivered poinsettia plants to the homes of our senior members.
- We all struggled with the idea of being apart on Christmas Eve. To remind us that in spite of Covid restrictions, we still worship as one body in Christ, we delivered candles and communion elements to the 175 households of our members. Decorated in festive tissue, ribbons and a holiday gift bag, this token gift included a letter from Pastor Rachel reminding our church family that they were being remembered during the Advent Season. Pastor Rachel included the lighting of the candles in our homes in our online Christmas Eve service.
- With the Membership Ministry, we commissioned a note card featuring an original watercolor painting of our church by talented church member, Patricia Mardis Bell. The cards were printed for a note writing effort to reach out to every member household in a personal way, reminding them that the church is an ever-present source of support, even when we are unable to be together in worship or fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Ebert, Co-Moderator  
Shelley Pierce, Co-Moderator  
Jeannie Obrien, Treasurer

## **TREASURER'S REPORT - DEACON FUND 2020**

**Opening Balance: January 1, 2020** **\$2,513.22**

### **Income:**

Donation, loose plate, communion offering,  
Gifts, Envelopes 1,532.00

**TOTAL INCOME** **\$4,045.22**

### **Disbursements:**

Coffee Supplies 262.82  
Easter Plants 450.00  
Emergency Support 77.46  
Australian Red Cross 993.08  
Poinsettias for Pioneers 141.75

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS** **-\$1,925.11**

**BALANCE – December 31, 2020** **\$2,120.11**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeannie Obrien, Deacon Treasurer





# Annual Financial Report

## Fiscal Year 2020

### Budgeted Accounts

#### Summary

<b>Income</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2020 Actual</b>
Pledged Giving	\$360,000	\$359,693
Other Income	\$52,100	\$41,592
Gifts and Bequests	\$30,000	\$30,000
<b>Total Unrestricted Income</b>	<b>\$442,100</b>	<b>\$431,285</b>

<b>Operating Expense Disbursements</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2020 Actual</b>
Payroll and Insurance	\$259,637	\$247,354
Property and Maintenance Expense	\$101,650	\$100,995
Benevolence	\$48,980	\$48,968
Administrative Expenses	\$13,050	\$10,815
Ministries	\$17,565	\$9,031
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>\$440,882</b>	<b>\$417,163</b>

### Restricted Accounts

<b>Account</b>	<b>Balance 12/31/2019</b>	<b>2020 Income</b>	<b>2020 Disbursements</b>	<b>Balance 12/31/2020</b>
Burn the Mortgage	\$801	\$55,250	\$56,051	\$0
P/M Capital Fund	\$12,360	\$87,374	\$85,667	\$14,067
Endowment Fund Seed Income	\$46,897	\$2,304	\$0	\$49,201
Memorial Fund	\$8,981	\$650	\$0	\$9,631
Music & Ministry	\$3,966	\$525	\$0	\$4,491
Memorial Garden	\$6,291	\$335	\$2,498	\$4,129
Rambo Endowment	\$6,414	\$3,985	\$2,000	\$8,399
Joy Offering	\$1,755	\$1,773	\$1,758	\$1,770
Congregational Dinners	\$503	\$0	\$0	\$503
Peacemaking	\$1,163	\$1,520	\$450	\$2,233
Pentecost	\$262	\$400	\$550	\$112
Sanctuary Guild	\$339	\$2,070	\$1,627	\$782
One Great Hour	\$70	\$1,040	\$910	\$200
Other Restricted	\$19,970	\$19,796	\$32,710	\$7,056

## Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program Mortgage

	Amount
<b>Outstanding Loan Balance 12/31/2019</b>	<b>\$32,395</b>
2020 Scheduled Principal Payments	\$5,073
2020 Additional Principal Payments	\$27,322
<b>Outstanding Loan Balance 12/31/2020</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>2020 Total Interest Paid</b>	<b>\$200</b>
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## Account Balances

Account	Value 12/31/2019	Value 12/31/2020
TD Bank Checking	\$165,173	\$131,758
TD Ameritrade	\$177,580	\$198,929
New Covenant Funds	\$120,643	\$135,235
PayPal Account	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>\$317,104</b>	<b>\$363,347</b>
<b>Total Restricted</b>	<b>\$146,292</b>	<b>\$102,574</b>

\*Please note that the year-end balance does not include deposits or outstanding disbursements in transit. If you would like further information, please contact Bob Spiller, Church Treasurer.

Respectfully Submitted, Kevin McKerr, Financial Manager

## Comparative Budget 2020/2021

	2020 Budget	2021 Budget
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Pledged Giving</b>	<b>360,000</b>	<b>356,048</b>
<b>Bequests/gifts</b>	30,000	10,000
<b>Unpledged</b>	16,000	10,000
<b>General Use of Building</b>	9,000	6,500
<b>Weekday/Food Pantry Expenses Share</b>	15,600	15,600
<b>Shared Denominational Support</b>	4,000	4,000
<b>Loose Plate Giving</b>	4,500	2,000
<b>Investment Income</b>	3,000	2,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>442,100</b>	<b>406,148</b>

## Expense

<b>Total Payroll &amp; Insurance</b>		
Salaries & Benefits	249,276	265,211
Employer FICA/Medicare	6,610	5,943
Payroll Processing Expenses	1,250	1,250
Worker's Comp & Disab. Ins.	2,500	2,500
<b>Total Payroll &amp; Insurance</b>	<b>259,636</b>	<b>274,904</b>
<b>Property &amp; Maintenance</b>		
<b>Church Building</b>		
<b>Utilities</b>		
Electric	14,500	14,000
Gas	7,000	6,500
Telephone/Fax/Internet Access	2,250	4,200
Communication Repair/lease	2,000	2,000
Water	800	1,200
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>26,550</b>	<b>27,900</b>
<b>Liability Insurance</b>	<b>21,750</b>	<b>27,000</b>
<b>Church snow removal</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>14,000</b>
<b>Repairs (Discretionary)</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>
<b>Required Inspections</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Expenses</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Supplies / Consumables</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Church refuse collection</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,400</b>
<b>Landscaping</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,300</b>
<b>Fire Alarm System</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>Total Church Building</b>	<b>87,100</b>	<b>92,300</b>
<b>Woodhull Manse Expenses</b>		
<b>Utilities</b>		
Fuel Oil	4,500	5,000
Cable/Phone	2,000	3,200
Electric	1,500	1,500
Water	300	350
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>8,300</b>	<b>10,050</b>
<b>Repairs/Supplies</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>
<b>Lawn Maintenance/Pest Control</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>1,250</b>
<b>Total Woodhull Manse</b>	<b>14,550</b>	<b>15,300</b>
<b>Total Property &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>101,650</b>	<b>107,600</b>

**Mission / Benevolence\*****Mission Committee**

<b>Mission-Local &amp; Global</b>	9,000	6,000
<b>Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana</b>	6,000	6,000
<b>Nueva Paz, Cuba</b>	1,500	0

<b>Total Mission Committee</b>	16,500	12,000
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**Presbytery**

<b>Basic Mission Support</b>	20,000	16,000
<b>Per Capita Expense</b>	12,480	11,843

<b>Total Presbytery</b>	32,480	27,843
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<b>Total Mission Committee-Benevolence</b>	<b>48,980</b>	<b>39,843</b>
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**Ministries****Worship****Substitutes**

Substitute Preacher	2,500	2,500
Substitute Organist	1,100	1,100
Substitute Choir Director	700	700

<b>Total Substitutes</b>	4,300	4,300
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<b>Organ/Piano Repair &amp; Tuning</b>	3,540	2,500
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<b>New Music-Chancel choir</b>	400	200
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<b>Sanctuary Supplies</b>	350	350
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<b>Copyright Insurance</b>	0	0
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<b>Robe Cleaning</b>	100	100
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<b>New Music-Youth choirs</b>	100	0
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<b>Total Worship</b>	8,790	7,450
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**Christian Education**

<b>Sunday School Supplies/Resource</b>	1,200	1,200
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<b>Youth Ministries</b>	1,500	1,200
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<b>Baptism/Confirmation</b>	400	100
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<b>Adult Education</b>	300	300
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<b>Celebrations</b>	300	0
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<b>Family Ministries Events</b>	200	0
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<b>Total Christian Education</b>	3,900	2,800
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<b>Pastor Nominating Committee</b>	3,500	0
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<b>Stewardship</b>	400	300
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<b>Church Officers</b>	500	500
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<b>Membership</b>	125	100
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<b>Peacemaking</b>	100	100
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<b>Pioneers</b>	250	100
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<b>Total Ministries</b>	<b>17,565</b>	<b>11,350</b>
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**Admin Expenses****Office hardware/software**

<b>Copier Lease</b>	2,150	2,150
<b>Copier Usage</b>	2,000	1,700
<b>Hardware/Software</b>	1,200	1,200

<b>Total Office hardware/software</b>	<b>5,350</b>	<b>5,050</b>
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<b>Subscriptions &amp; Prof. Svc. Fees</b>	3,000	3,300
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<b>Supplies-Office</b>	1,750	1,200
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<b>Postage &amp; Handling</b>	1,200	1,200
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<b>Web/ Church Management software</b>	1,750	1,750
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<b>Total Admin Expenses</b>	<b>13,050</b>	<b>12,500</b>
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**Banking**

<b>Credit Card Trans fee</b>	800	1,000
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<b>Returned checks and fees</b>	100	100
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<b>Total Banking</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1,100</b>
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**COVID Related Expenses**

<b>Supplies</b>	0	1,000
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<b>Total COVID Related</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,000</b>
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**Non-Operating Income**

<b>PPP Loan Forgiveness</b>	0	42,240
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<b>Total Non-Operating Income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42,240</b>
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**Non-Operating Expense**

<b>Pastor Moving Expenses</b>	10,000	0
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<b>Front Steps Repair</b>	10,000	0
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<b>Total Non-Operating Expenses</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>0</b>
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<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>461,781</b>	<b>448,297</b>
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**Difference****-19,681****91**

\* The Mission expenses are exclusive of the "Donated Space" and utilities for the ELC Food Pantry, YDA Program and Weekday Nursery School.



## **Membership Ministry**

Starting in the spring soon after lockdown began, the Membership Ministry hosted weekly Wednesday Prayer Meetings over Zoom. These meetings have continued throughout the year and we get a steady 10-12 people logging on each week. It has been a wonderful way to stay in touch and support our members. In the fall we hosted several weeks of Saturday morning hikes at Sunken Meadow State Park, which will resume once the weather cooperates. In December, we coordinated sending out Christmas cards to all members of the church, and in February, with the Deacons, we wrote cards of encouragement to all members. We believe that, even though we have not been able to have many new members join in the past year (five, in February 2021), it is our mission to reach out to our current members, make them feel valued and remembered, and assure them that we, the church, are there for them at this difficult time.

Our current members are: Marilyn Barker, Peggy Dennison, Susanne Haffner, Barbara Healy, Carolyn Louis, Diana Montusi, Claire Newman, Lisa Nikrant, Shelley Pierce and Libby Yoskowitz.

Respectfully submitted,  
Libby Yoskowitz,  
Membership Ministry Chair



## **Local/Global Mission Ministries**

The 2020 discretionary funds received by Local/Global Mission Ministries were disbursed as follows:

Donations were made to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to aid victims of the floods in the south due to hurricanes Laura & Delta, the forest/brush fires in the western states, and in Australia, and to assist survivors of the tornadoes in Tennessee and elsewhere. In addition, PDA funds were donated to assist refugees fleeing war zones in Syria, and to provide earthquake relief for families in Puerto Rico.

Providing food for hungry people in our own communities became a priority as Covid affected the livelihoods of so many. Acting locally, donations were made to the Harry Chapin Food Bank, Helping Hands Rescue Mission and to the Ecumenical Lay Council Food Pantry. Donations were also made to the Little Flower Educational Foundation which provides services for foster children, and to New Hour for Women and Children L.I. which provides pre-and post release services to incarcerated & formerly incarcerated women and to their children.

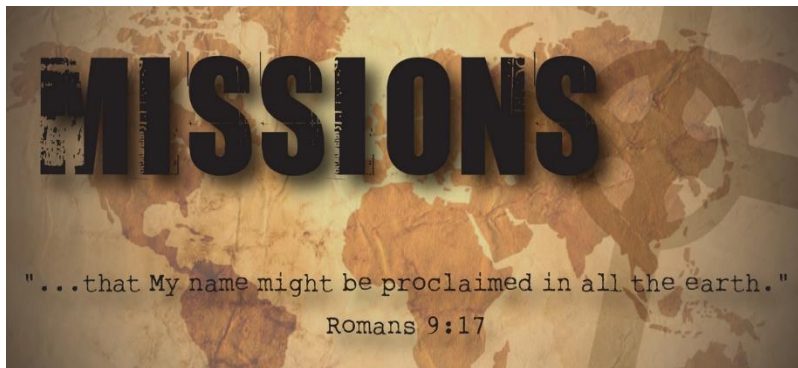
Acting globally, in response to mission listings in the Presbyterian World Mission Giving Catalog, and in an effort to alleviate hunger in rural communities abroad, donations were made to purchase farm animals – chickens, goats and even a cow! In addition, money was donated to provide famine relief vouchers to those who needed them, refugee emergency life packs, kitchen kits, communal irrigation pumps, and in support of programs aimed at improving the health of mothers and newborns in under served places.

In January and February, Mission Ministries sponsored two HIHI dinners for homeless guests staying the night at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. But the one planned for March was abruptly canceled due to the Covid pandemic. As our church building remained closed, the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering and the Pentecost Offering could not be promoted as they had in the past due to the difficulty of sending out all-church mailings. However, some donations were received due to on-line requests. Fortunately, by November, Mission Ministries was able to inform the congregation about the Christmas Joy Offering by mail and with a virtually recorded minute for mission as well. As a result, \$2,123 was raised which will be used to provide scholarships for deserving minority students to attend Presbyterian related colleges and to assist retired church workers who need pension assistance through grants.

It has been a challenging time for our congregation, but the Lord has been with us and has blessed us by raising up talented people from among us who possess the gifts needed to keep us all virtually together and one in the Spirit. May God bless all those very special, faithful volunteers.

“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all time in all ways.”  
“The Lord be with you all.” II Thessalonians 3:16

Global/Local Mission Ministries  
Marilyn Fox, Jane Hudson and Florence Ogg



### **Peacemaking Ministry**

In February, prior to quarantine, Peacemaking presented two Adult Education programs on the environment. The first consisted of a selection of educational videos about climate science and what we can do about climate change and global warming, with discussion. The second was a guest speaker, Alissa Tippie, who presented a program about the Sunrise Movement, an advocacy group supporting climate change legislation. We also did a children's sermon on climate change and global warming. February was a busy month.

Then quarantine began. We have continued to meet, mostly virtually, the rest of the year. We organized the Peace and Global Witness offering remotely. We have donated or are in the process of donating to several organizations, including: Direct Relief, Heifer International, Sierra Club, and Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, 350.org, (an environmental organization), Equal Justice Initiative, and Long Island Cares.

We have written short articles on the Global Crisis and what we can do as individuals to help, hopefully soon to be included in weekly emails. We are looking forward to organizing work groups to do outdoor clean ups and other environmental activities in the spring, as well as having guest speakers and programs on a range of Peacemaking topics when we can meet in person.

Cathy Coleman

Chair, Peacemaking Ministry

2020 Members: Elizabeth Coleman, Pat Reeves, Alan Schorn, Bob Shevlin, and Audrey Van Deusen,



## **Presbyterian Women**

Greetings from FPC's Presbyterian Women's organization, better known as PW.

We, like everyone else, have very much missed being together in our beautiful church building, and have also missed the social gatherings of the annual PW Social Events Sale. Those get-togethers have been such a success, raising monies for so many worthwhile causes, but also giving an opportunity to share in fellowship, with new and old friends. We sincerely hope to return to that as soon as it is safe to do so.

We did distribute some money in 2020, in smaller amounts, with funds left from the previous year. Those donations included:

The Australian Red Cross Wildfire Relief fund, family medical emergencies, Island Harvest, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, PW USA Gives Day, PW Birthday and Thank Offering Program of PW USA, Save the Children Fund, the adoption of a YDA Christmas family, Baptism gifts, the Thanksgiving table cornucopia (fruit and vegetables then donated to the Food Pantry), and the Rambo Spiritual Sunday Fund.



In the past year, because of Covid, we were only able to have three book discussions, one in Northport park sitting in a circle near the water, one in a zoom meet, and the other on Leah Fink's front porch. All were good talks. As we draw nearer returning to in-person gatherings, we will put in the Weekly Bulletin the name of the next book.

We send everyone good wishes. Until we meet again.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diana Montusi

### Income Statement

#### Balance

-	General Fund as of January 1, 2020	5,896.09
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#### Receipts

Donations	400.00	
PW Event Sale (last year)	154.00	
PW Birthday Offering	0.00	
PW Thank Offering	425.00	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>979.00</b>

#### Disbursements

##### Mission

Australian Red Cross Wildfire Relief	1,000.00
Family Medical Emergency	200.00
Island Harvest	200.00
FPC Pastor Discretionary Fund	600.00
PW USA Gives Day	200.00
PW USA Birthday Offering	400.00
PW USA Thank Offering	425.00
Save The Children	800.00
YDA Christmas family	355.00
	4,180.00

##### Home Church

Horizons Magazine	24.95
Event Refunds due to Covid-19	140.00
Baptisms/Cheer	106.98
Thanksgiving Table	45.22
Rambo Spiritual Sunday Fund	100.00
	417.15

<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>4,597.15</b>
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#### Balance

-	General Fund as of December 31, 2020	2,277.94
	First National Bank of Long Island	

##### New Covenant Balanced Growth Fund

Balance as of Dec 31, 2020	\$3,007.64
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Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Denniston, PW Treasurer

## **Property and Maintenance Ministry**

The P&M Committee has continued to maintain our buildings throughout the unusual year of 2020. All yearly inspections have been completed and all has been in good order. The furnace filters have been upgraded and replaced several times by Harold. We have also had to change several of the toilet flush valves in the bathrooms. Jim Zima has kept the timers and thermostats regulated as needed. The building is checked every day to make sure everything is in order.

There have been several new projects, that have been on the wait list, that were completed this year. The first being the front steps and railings of the church on both sides that have totally been rebuilt. The second has been the regrading and resurfacing of the parking lot, an improvement that has been a need for a long time. At the same time the drains by the back doors were also upgraded. Thank you to Jim Denniston.

We had to replace the furnace at the manse this year. We think it may have been the original so timing was good. Leaks at the manse were also repaired thanks to John. We had to remove a tree that was rotted by the driveway and there were many branches down in the backyard. Harold did a lot of cleanup.

The first floor of the church building was painted by John Kennedy as was the stairway leading to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and the hallway on that floor. We are bright and shiny awaiting everyone's return.

Carole Gandy,  
Property & Maintenance Ministry Chair



## **Sanctuary Guild**

The Sanctuary Guild provides the flowers to beautify the sanctuary at worship on Sunday mornings. Dedications from individuals in the congregation for loved ones, births, in celebration of someone or in memory of someone are always welcomed. We also take orders at the appropriate time for Easter flower dedications and Christmas poinsettias and wreath dedications which decorate the sanctuary. If you would like to join us please contact Sharon Noonan or Sue Ebert. Our phone numbers are in the church directory. Thank you for your continued support.

The Sanctuary Guild members are Sharon Noonan and Sue Ebert.



## Stewardship Ministry

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:  
1 Peter 4:10*

We have moved into the 2021 church year facing our normal operating costs even though we are in a pandemic. Current pledge information shows that we have received pledges for \$364,758 for 2021. This compares to \$359,172 pledged by this time last year. Our goal is to reach \$400,000 in pledges to plan for 2021. We are 91% of the way to our goal. The Finance Ministry faces great difficulty in preparing an annual budget when adequate pledges are not made and they have to deal with estimated income sources.

The per capita assessment this year is \$38.08 per member. We encourage everyone to add these expenses to their pledge giving to help defray the costs.

The Stewardship Ministry has been working by Zoom and email to develop the pledge campaign and encourage Stewardship in the church. We recognize that continuing information regarding how the church is both receiving its revenues and how it is spending its money is not only meaningful but necessary.

Even though the church has been closed to worship during the pandemic, we hope to be able to open soon. We still need funds to keep the church building functional, and to pay salaries. In addition, the missions of our congregation have continued, such as keeping the food pantry open and contributing towards disaster assistance. We urge each member of the congregation to accept his or her personal responsibility in providing the income necessary to permit our church to continue its work in our community as well as the world. Our ministry and mission calls for us to do this both joyfully and spiritually. We must all accept this responsibility seriously. All that we have is from God. This is a way for us to say "Thank You". We need to commit to the fact that giving to our church must be a part of our spiritual growth in response to the gift of Grace we receive from our God. Giving of our time, talent, gifts and service is a way to serve our Lord.

You can now make your donations by text (text "fpcnpt" to 73256 click the link, and complete the gift) or on line (<https://www.fpcnorthport.org/give>).

We urge all of our fellow church members to increase their generosity in supporting our church's work by giving of your financial resources, time and talent. Consider participating in a group you haven't worked with before. Not only will you be assisting others but you will feel in your heart the reward of giving time as well as giving money.

The Stewardship Ministry is not only involved in the yearly "estimate of giving" campaign, we also encourage giving of time, talent and money throughout the year. In addition, we try to have articles in Highlights and Happenings and Minutes for Mission.

The Stewardship Ministry wishes to thank Barbara Kaifler, Administrative Assistant and Kevin McKerr, Financial Manager for their assistance in carrying out our work.

Members of the Stewardship Ministry in 2020 are Jeff Barasch, Jane Hudson, Christine Spiller, Bob Spiller, Jack Coleman and Rachel Vione (*ex officio*).

Respectfully submitted by  
Jack Coleman, Chair

## Sunday School

Like everything else in 2020, Sunday School had an unusual year. Our last in-person Sunday School class was March 1, 2020. A couple weeks later, we began uploading Holy Moly lessons and videos every week for families to use at home. Beginning in October, we had Sunday School lessons over Zoom for elementary grades, hosted by Lisa Nikrant and Linda Dickman. The few children who attended enjoyed seeing some friends, hearing Bible stories, and having discussions and simple activities together. At this time, we're continuing with Linda's story and lesson once per month.

Attempting a Christmas Pageant was a priority since children and families had been engaging on computers for so much of the year, and we wanted to provide a safe, in-person opportunity to connect with church. After some informal conversation, a team developed to make a Pageant happen. Libby Yoskowitz wrote "A Time Like No Other" and she and Lisa Nikrant gathered a cast of children who wanted to participate. The script was a newscast, which would allow participants to be filmed individually or with siblings to ensure a safe environment. As usual with pageants at our church, students from preschool to high school enthusiastically participated. Todd Pierce stepped in to do most of the filming and all of the editing. Filming was done mostly on one day outdoors in November, and Todd assembled all the parts into a seamless production, including animation enhancements. Ariana Warren and Brenda Clark worked with several of the children to record hymns, which Todd included in the production. The Pageant was very well received by the congregation, who appreciated the opportunity to see the children and maintain this strong tradition at our church.

We very much look forward to welcoming families back to in-person Sunday School as soon as it is safe to do so.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Nikrant











2020 proved to be an extremely challenging year for Weekday Nursery School. However, we were able to make necessary adjustments throughout the year to best educate and protect our students.

Weekday began 2020 with 114 students in our school. After the pandemic struck and forced our building to close, we moved all our classes online for virtual Zoom lessons each day. Although the school day was much different than it had been prior to the closure, our teachers, students, and families made the most out of the experience every day.

We were unable to hold our summer camp in 2020 but were determined to open for fall of 2020. We created a plan for the school to open and keep all the students and staff safe. This plan included using 4 entrance doors instead of 1, staggering drop off and pick up times, keeping each class as a stagnant group and cleaning shared areas between each class use. We also instituted a no-visitor policy within the building and created a no-touch sign in system for the students and staff, complete with a health screen upon check-in. All our students and staff wear masks in our building, except for the two-year-old students because it is not recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Weekday continues to provide a wonderful education for our students despite COVID. We are hopeful that within 2021, we may be able to loosen some of the restrictions in place now and look forward to having our large family gatherings in the future!

### **Worship Ministry**

2020 demanded we seek new and creative approaches to worshiping. Online services and Zoom meetings enabled us to continue. Thanks to the creative skills and passion from a team of very talented people we were able to continue to worship. Pastor Rachel never missed a moment! She inspired all of us to embrace our spiritual lives from the safety of our homes. Every aspect of the service was preached to a camera as though we were all there with her. Brenda Clark brought all her skills and continued to create a passionate musical environment for online worshiping. The Warren family quartet became our choir. This was a huge blessing as they sang anthems and prayers each week. We are most grateful to Marie, Arianna and Andrew for lending their beautiful voices to our services.

This was all filmed, edited and put online through the talents, and dedication of Joe and Nancy Winkler and Kevin McKerr. Every Friday for a year they met in the sanctuary to film and create an inspiring service for us.

Here are some highlights which demonstrate how we have continued to worship together in creative ways:

- Pastor Rachel continued Communion by giving out packaged sets of Elements through drive-by.
- Ashes were similarly distributed to all who wanted them.
- Sharon Noonan kept the sanitary decorated each week and the holidays with flowers.
- We had a baptism service and some meetings in the Memorial Garden.
- The Worship Ministry continued to meet monthly online.
- Easter, Christmas and Pentecost continued to be decorated for worship with some adjustments for filming.
- Brenda organized, accompanied and rehearsed with musicians from our congregation for weekly services as well as Christmas.
- We have been seeking to expand our banner collection for a few years. An Ordinary Time and Lent banner have been purchased.
- Additional lawn banners were made to announce our weekly and holiday online worship services.
- Perhaps one of the most impressive things to come out of this year is the joining of new members who came to us via our online services. They joined without any in person meetings or visits to our church.

While many of our activities and traditions had to be put on hold in 2020, the basic essence of worshiping remained an integral part of our spiritual lives this year.

Sincerely,

Vicki Field, Worship Ministry, Chairperson

Ministry Members: Joan Armet, Barbara Healy, Sharon Noonan, Robert Shevlin, Dr. Brenda Clark, Rev. Rachel Vione

## **Youth Ministry**

2020 proved be an unusual and difficult year. In February the Senior Highs went on a mission trip to Philadelphia. We traveled by train on a Friday night and stayed at Old First United Church of Christ in downtown Philadelphia. We learned about their homeless ministry and our kids helped prepare and serve 3 meals to the area's homeless in two different locations over the course of the weekend. They also sorted and distributed clothing and toiletries to the people who came for meals. Perhaps the most important and enlightening experience was after breakfast on Saturday, our youth got to sit with a few of the gentlemen that participate in UCC's program and hear their stories. It offered them a different and perhaps more in-depth way to engage than the Midnight Run experience they have had in the past (We had booked a Midnight Run experience again this year in March, but had to be canceled due to Covid). It was freezing that weekend and that also threw more light on the importance of this kind of ministry. We also got to enjoy some fellowship together walking through the city seeing some historical sites. That included a stop for the iconic Federal Donuts and some hot chocolate.

We participated in the Soles 4 Souls shoe drive once again. The youth handled the set up of the collection box and each week bagged the donated shoes to be taken to a local storage facility where they are gathered from many community locations for the month of March. That was the last in person experience we were able to have this year.



Although we were not able to shop in person in December our youth still participated in the ELC's Adopt a Family program. Through email and phone call coordination we were able to contribute an impressive collection of necessities and toys to a local family this year.

Over the course of the rest of 2020 Pastor Rachel has kept our youth engaged by encouraging participation in our on line worship service through video recordings of prayers and liturgy and youth sermon participation.

We look forward to finding new ways to engage and connect with one another through 2021 as the pandemic continues to challenge us.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elder Kim Gilbert



### **Ministry Leadership**

Clerk of Session – Marcia Mercer

Assistant Clerk – Carole Gandy

All Church Nominating Committee – Joan Armet

Board of Deacons Co-Moderators – Sue Ebert & Shelley Pierce

### **Corporation Officers**

President – Marcia Mercer

Secretary – Carole Gandy

Treasurer – Robert Spiller



## **Meaning of Membership in the Presbyterian Church (USA)\***

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. Such involvement includes:

- proclaiming the good news in word and deed,
- taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,
- lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,
- studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,
- supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,
- demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,
- responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,
- living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life, working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment, participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and
- reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.

\*From *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Part II. Book of Order*, 2013-2015.

## 2020 MINISTRY TEAMS

### **Finance**

Peggy Denniston (chair)  
Harold Armet  
Dennis Crowley (elder)  
Lisa Huntley  
Kevin McKerr (staff)  
Steve Nikrant  
Bob Spiller

### **Memorial Garden**

Carole Gandy (chair) (elder)  
Harry Newman (elder)  
Jim Denniston  
Jane Hudson  
Steve Keller  
Gerry Walford  
Krista Mellinger-DeRoma  
Jennifer Paterson  
Peggy Denniston

### **Memorial Fund**

Jane Hudson  
Carole Gandy (elder)  
Art Shaw

### **Personnel**

Carole Gandy (chair) (elder)  
Richard Huntley  
Diane Lobaugh  
Marcia Mercer

### **Property & Maintenance**

Harold Armet  
Jim Denniston  
David Dickman  
Carole Gandy (chair) (elder)  
Steven Keller  
Harry Newman  
Bob Van Deusen  
James Zima

### **Stewardship**

Jack Coleman (chair)  
Jeff Barasch  
Jane Hudson  
Bob Spiller  
Christine Spiller (elder)

**Adult Education**

Christine Spiller (chair) (elder)  
Jack Fink  
Tim Gladding  
Audrey Van Deusen  
Bob Van Deusen

**Children's Ministry**

Lisa Nikrant (SS Director)

**Youth Ministries**

Kim Gilbert (chair) (elder)  
Stephanie Lee (youth elder)  
Rachel Vione (staff)

**Mariners**

Marcia & Ron Mercer  
Faye Michels

**Membership**

Marilyn Barker  
Peggy Denniston  
Susanne Haffner  
Barbara Healy  
Carolyn Louis  
Diana Montusi  
Shelley Pierce  
Barbara Sanderson  
Libby Yoskowitz (chair)

**Pioneers**

Faye Michels (chair)  
Sharon Noonan

**Presbyterian Women**

Pat Bell  
Diana Montusi

**Local & Global Missions**

Marilyn Fox (chair)  
Jane Hudson  
Florence Ogg (elder)

**Peacemaking**

Cathy Coleman (chair)  
Barbara Healy  
Anne Mateer  
Pat Reeves  
Alan Schorn  
Bob Shevlin (elder)  
Gloria Valsamis  
Audrey Van Deusen

**Weekday Nursery School**

Amanda Carnesi  
Dana Laughlin  
Cindy Mies (elder)  
Christine Mulholland (Director)  
Melissa VonSalzen

**Music & Ministry**

Deidre Gehrke  
Nancy Winkler  
Cathy Coleman  
Jack Coleman  
Brenda Clark (staff)

**Sanctuary Guild**

Sue Ebert  
Sharon Noonan (chair)

**Worship**

Joan Armet (elder)  
Vicki Field (chair)  
Barbara Healy  
Sharon Noonan  
Bob Shevlin (elder)  
Brenda Clark (staff)  
Rachel Vione (staff)

**All Church Nominating Committee**

Tim Gladding  
Martha Keller  
Cindy Mies  
Jeannie O'Brien  
Christine Spiller  
Pegge Strella  
Audrey Van Deusen

**Pastor Nominating Committee**

Dennis Hartin (Chair)  
Carole Gandy (elder)  
Kim Gilbert (elder)  
Wayne Louis  
Diana Montusi  
Anita D'Amico Stambouly (elder)

**Reopening Task Force**

Vicki Field	Brenda Clark (staff)
Carole Gandy	Rachel Vione (staff)
Wayne Louis	
Lisa Nikrant	
Robin O'Neil Gonzalez	



## **Our Mission Statement**

*First Presbyterian Church of Northport is a welcoming community that invites all people to learn about and respond to the Word of God as found in the Old and New Testaments.*

*Our mission is to be shaped by, proclaim, and live out the good news of Jesus Christ. We are committed to supporting the spiritual development of our congregation by feeding the spiritually and physically hungry, caring for the sick and lonely, nurturing children, and reaching out to those in need in our local and global communities.*