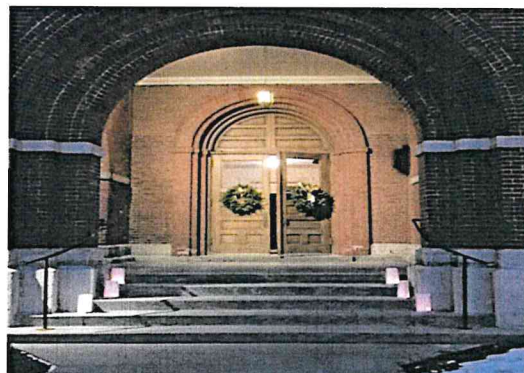
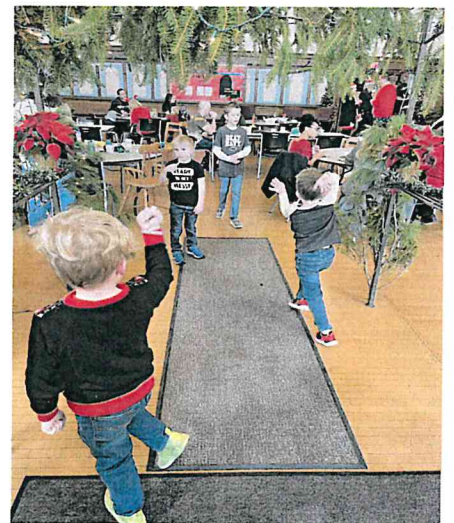
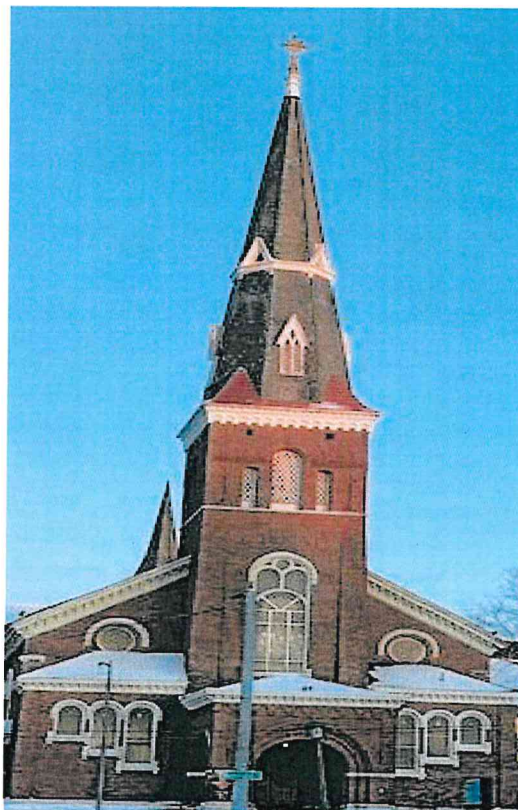


# THE ANNUAL MEETINGS AND REPORTS of The First Presbyterian Church

## 2022



# THE 220th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF

The First Presbyterian Church  
Watertown, New York

February 12, 2023

## AGENDA

- +Call to Order and Prayer by Moderator Rev. Dr. Andrew Philip Long
- +Establishment of Quorum
- +Approval of Agenda
- +Approval of Minutes from 219th Annual Meeting
- +Review and Acceptance of Written Reports
- +Pastor's Report
- +Adjourn Congregational Meeting
- +Call to Order of the Corporation of First Presbyterian Church
- +Financial Reports
- +Presentation of the 2023 Budget
- +Adjourn Corporation Meeting
- +Reconvene Congregational Meeting
- +Nominating Committee Report
- +Approve Pastor's Terms of Call
- +Time for Comment
- +Adjournment with Prayer

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## FROM THE PASTOR

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 8:38-39*

Dear friends in Christ,

I'm sitting in Fellowship Hall as I write my letter for the 2022 Annual Report. I'm here working with a group of church folks to prepare our monthly Open Table meal. We've checked mostly everything off of our to-do list, and now there is a lull in the action while the food cooks and we await for our guests to arrive.

There are other things going on as I sit here and write, both in our community and beyond. Right now there are crowds gathered across Memphis, TN, in collective grief and protest over the brutal murder of Tyre Nichols. In California and Ohio, communities are reeling from and grieving mass shootings that took place, coincidentally or not, on the weekend of the Lunar New Year in predominantly Asian and Asian-American neighborhoods. Also in California families pick through the rubble of their destroyed houses and broken dreams, as historic rains brought flooding, mudslides, and power outages as never seen before. Two homes in Watertown burned down recently, a few others in Carthage and Cape Vincent, during the coldest days we've seen so far this season.

And now I'm starting to pick up the lovely scents of chicken and rice and fresh bread as they waft through Fellowship Hall.

Such is the paradox of life: in the midst of tragedy, there is goodness. As one community grieves and laments, another is preparing to feed anyone who is hungry. In the presence of death and pain and suffering, there is life.

This is what the Apostle Paul so eloquently expresses in his letter to the Romans, and he does so with great hope. He expresses to the fledging community in Rome that even though the world seems to be crumbling around them, and though they are assailed on every side and hemmed in from every direction, nothing can separate them from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Remarkably, Paul has nothing to say about the presence of evil powers in the world – it is a given that they exist. Instead, Paul reassures the Romans that even though there are evil powers in the world, God's love will always have the final word. Whether it is a ruler drunk on power or an impending storm, God's love will win. Whether it is tragedy from the depths of hell or the specter of death, God's love will win.

This is why First Presbyterian Church of Watertown remains a vital and vibrant force for God in our community and beyond. We exist not to bring glory and honor to ourselves, but to bear witness in the presence of the powers that God's power reigns supreme. We do this in worship, when we gather for peaceful conversation on tough topics, and when we feed our neighbors. We do this when we open our doors for fun and show our community that church can be and is different. We do this as we pray, sing, lament, and celebrate. We do this as we baptize our children and bury our dead with resurrection hope. Each day we exist as a congregation is another day that the power and love of God has an opportunity to transform all things.

It has been an honor for me to do this important work with you in 2022 and I'm excited for where we are already headed in 2023. Be convinced: nothing will separate us, or anything in creation, from the love of God in Jesus Christ.

As your Pastor and friend,



# ATTENDANCE

	Total Attendance	# of Services	Weekly Average	Sundays with more than 200	Sundays with less than 150
2022	2985	43	69	0	43**
2021	2060	29	69	0	27
2020	1225	18	68	0	18*
2019	5594	51	110	1	49
2018	5944	52	114	1	49
2017	6413	54	119	1	51
2016	6957	53	131	1	47
2015	6939	53	131	1	46
2014	6838	53	129	1	38
2013	7159	52	138	1	41
2012	7441	53	140	1	36
2011	7898	52	152	5	25
2010	8645	53	163	4	22
2009	8312	52	160	5	23
2008	8507	51	167	7	16
2007	9730	54	180	19	15
2006	9155	54	170	13	18
2005	8807	54	163	6	20
2004	7841	52	150	4	23
2003	8380	50	167	8	18
2002	6349	45	141	2	29

\* No in person worship from March 15 to July 26 and no in person Christmas Eve Service.

\*\* No in person Christmas Eve Service

# MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, January 1, 2022	244
Members Received:	
Profession of Faith	2
Reaffirmation of Faith	2
Transfer Letter	2
Total members received	6
Members Removed from the Rolls:	
Deceased	9
Members transferred to other churches	2
Total members removed:	<u>11</u>
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, December 31, 2022	239

## NECROLOGY

Your prayers are asked for the families of members and friends of the church who departed in 2022:

*Dawson Allen*

*Richard Lake*

*Barbara Case*

*Mike Gillette*

*William (Sandy) Conde II*

*Ruth Fish.*

*Urban Hirschey*

*Nora Bajjaly*

*Eleanor Fralick*

## Welcome (NEW MEMBERS)

*Katie Burgoon Long*

*Gary C. Valik*

*Ana Luquin Camacho*

*June V. Denny*

*William R. O'Connor*

*Amy C. O'Connor*

## SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM

*Alek Vaughn Klug, son of Jason & Svetlana Klug*

*Mason Vaughn Klug, son of Jason & Svetlana Klug*

*Prince Miles Gyakari, son of Joseph & Patience Gyakari*

*Kayla Ohemaa, daughter of Joseph & Patience Gyakari*

*Violet Cynthis McGuire, daughter of Caleb & Emily McGuire*

## WEDDINGS

*Gary Christopher Valika and Ana Beatriz Luquin Camacho on May 21, 2022*

*Rev. Dr. Andrew Philip Long officiated*

# FINANCIAL REPORT

As indicated in the attached Statement of Operations and Activities, the Church's revenues are from four main sources, pledge & plate, endowment support for operations, endowment & gifts for building improvements and endowment restricted to outreach activities. Expenditures are made for three main areas, operating expenses, building improvements and outreach. Our annual budget runs about \$600,000 to \$800,000 depending on the amount of capital improvements required. Our budget for 2022 approximated \$660,000 and \$619,000 was spent as we had planned for possible building improvements of \$100,000 and only \$15,000 was spent. Our budget for 2023 approximates \$2,598,000 and includes \$1,912,000 of needed building improvements as described below.

During 2022, our total revenue was \$745,473, consisting of \$348,504 of operating income, \$176,462 of Endowment support for operations, \$109,144 of endowment and gifts for building improvements and \$111,808 restricted to outreach activities. Total expenditures amounted to \$619,300 consisting of operating expenditures of \$514,045, building improvements of \$14,789 and outreach activities of \$90,466. During 2022 the Church received a most generous gift of \$1 million. As later described in The Endowment Fund Report this gift will be utilized to pay for steeple improvements. Since steeple improvements will be made in 2023, this gift is held in Endowment and will be recognized in income in 2023 as payments are made for the steeple improvements. In addition, the Church received \$51,225 from special fund-raising for restoration for the piano which is included in Worship and Music revenues. Church has budgeted \$38,705 for completion of piano restoration and is planning on raising the additional \$18,775 to complete the \$70,000 restoration project. Building improvements in 2022 consisted mainly of \$12,089 for the study conducted on the steeple. In 2023, the Church is budgeting \$1.7 million for repairs to steeple, \$192,000 for window repair and \$20,000 to complete roof for a total of \$1,912,000. \$1 million of the steeple repair will be paid from the gift mentioned above. It is planned to conduct fund raising for the remaining capital improvements of \$912,000 and piano restoration of \$38,000 for approximately \$950,000. The Church also has available a \$500,000 line of credit with a local bank. As described in The Endowment Fund report, funds from Endowment will be utilized only if sufficient funds cannot be raised. The Church is reluctant to utilize Endowment for the capital projects as 5% of any funds utilized will reduce amounts available to allocate to operations.

Pledge and plate collections of \$270,000 were consistent with 2021. As we enter 2023, we still need to address our church's long-term tendency to run annual operating deficits. The operating deficit for 2023 is budgeted to be excess of \$266,000. The calculated endowment support for operations in 2023 is approximately \$161,000. The Church has accumulated sufficient cash from prior years' endowment draws to fund the budgeted operations shortfall in 2023. The Church's endowment is not only critical to its annual operating budget but to its long-term sustainability as well. As described in the next section of this Annual Report, the endowment fund stood at \$5,929,993 at December 31, 2022. Total annual calculated draw from endowment for 2022 was \$276,504 and is calculated to be \$267,655 for 2023. In addition, \$52,398 of Graves Building funds was calculated for building improvements and will be drawn as needed to fund capital projects. The total draw represents approximately 5% of the average endowment for the past three years and is in accordance with Church' investment guidelines. In addition to the annual draw of \$276,504 for 2022, the Church withdrew \$109,144 that was being held in Endowment for building improvements.

Personnel expenses in 2022 were \$282,043 or about 6.4% more than anticipated in the 2022 as a new office administrator was added. For 2023, the Personnel budget is shown as \$325,614 which includes a 5.0% increase for staff other than Pastor Andrew and the Administrator. The Pastor has requested that his salary not be adjusted at this time. However, the Session awarded the Pastor with a \$5,000 additional payment for outstanding performance. No increase was approved for the Administrator as she was hired in late 2022. Budgeted personnel expense has increased approximately \$43,000 from actual 2022 as the Church was without an office administrator for much of 2022.

Respectfully submitted,  
Merle Tousant, Treasurer

# STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>				
Pledge & Plate	\$ 285,506	\$ 269,759	\$ 270,227	\$ 269,252
Facilities	2,655	4,600	2,430	2,150
Christian Education	83	1,175	-	1,500
Deacons	845	1,761	6,789	7,000
Mission	4,225	6,048	14,522	14,000
Membership and Evangelism	815	1,938	505	1,000
Worship	3,365	2,200	54,030	20,025
Other				
	\$ 297,494	\$ 287,481	\$ 348,504	\$ 314,927
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>				
Administration	\$ 14,221	\$ 9,608	\$ 17,585	\$ 19,725
Payroll	294,045	304,228	282,043	325,614
Facilities	54,207	62,138	85,898	99,510
Christian Education	2,029	3,978	3,579	4,750
Deacons	4,878	10,592	12,922	20,750
Mission	15,975	34,922	42,412	20,225
Membership and Evangelism	11,083	15,625	12,008	16,275
Worship	8,028	11,852	50,143	51,215
Other	1,085	4,942	7,456	23,199
	\$ 405,551	\$ 457,886	\$ 514,045	\$ 581,263
Operating ( Loss )	(108,057)	(170,405)	(165,541)	(266,336)
Endowment Support for Operations	170,044	165,039	176,017	161,532
Building Improvements Expenditures	(98,533)	(270,341)	(14,789)	(1,912,250)
Endowment & Gifts for Building	90,644	219,654	109,144	1,946,953
Outreach Expenditures	(57,268)	(114,224)	(90,466)	(104,818)
Endowment restricted to outreach	86,388	88,938	111,808	104,818
Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ 83,218	\$ (81,338)	\$ 126,173	\$ (70,101)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	644,570	761,113	745,473	2,528,230
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	(561,352)	(842,451)	(619,300)	(2,598,331)
<b>Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures</b>	\$ 83,218	\$ (81,338)	\$ 126,173	\$ (70,101)



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<u>Committees</u>	<u>2021 Actual</u>		<u>2022 Actual</u>		<u>2022 Budget</u>		<u>2023 Budget</u>	
	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
Pledge/Plate	\$ 269,759		\$ 270,227		\$ 255,000		\$ 269,252	
Christian Education	1,175	3,978	-	3,579	1,000	4,225	1,500	4,750
Deacons	12,375	10,592	11,696	12,922	10,872	18,481	11,377	20,750
Facilities	249,113	332,479	139,190	100,687	140,518	181,900	1,988,663	2,011,760
Outreach	88,938	114,224	111,808	90,466	100,977	100,978	104,818	104,818
Church Mission Collections	2,094	30,125	3,452	17,595	2,500	9,000	3,000	9,225
Mission Committee	3,954	4,797	11,070	24,817	-	4,500	11,000	11,000
Worship & Music	3,001	11,853	54,030	50,143	4,940	16,075	20,825	51,215
Treasurer	128,766	4,351	143,494	7,456	143,049	24,273	116,795	23,199
Administration	-	9,608	-	17,585	-	17,000	-	19,725
Payroll	-	288,454	-	282,043	-	265,406	-	325,614
Personnel	-	15,775	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stewardship	-	589	-	-	650	650	-	-
Community & Evangelism	1,938	15,625	505	12,008	2,500	16,136	1,000	16,275
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 761,113</b>	<b>\$ 842,451</b>	<b>\$ 745,473</b>	<b>\$ 619,300</b>	<b>\$ 662,006</b>	<b>\$ 658,624</b>	<b>\$ 2,528,230</b>	<b>\$ 2,598,331</b>
<b>Net</b>		<b>\$ (81,338)</b>		<b>\$ 126,173</b>		<b>\$ 3,382</b>		<b>\$ (70,101)</b>

# PERSONNEL EXPENDITURES 2022

<u>Payroll</u>	<u>2021 Year End</u>	<u>2022 Year End</u>	<u>2022 Budget</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>
Ministers Salary	\$ 80,059	\$ 64,000	\$ 64,000	\$ 69,000
Ministers Social Security	7,885	4,896	6,809	7,191
Ministers Housing	23,013	25,000	25,000	25,000
Ministers Medical	11,125	25,460	24,030	27,720
Ministers Pension	12,730	9,380	8,900	8,900
Ministers Mileage & Travel	125	199	1,800	1,800
Ministers Prof Fees	1,195	4,412	2,000	2,000
Ministers Cont Ed	935	1,916	3,000	3,000
Administrator Salary	-	24,625	-	65,000
Admin Assistant	39,952	41,006	41,151	30,000
Full Time Benefit Package	10,000	12,668	10,300	16,119
Sexton Salary Extra Hours	814	-	-	-
Sexton	20,703	3,105	3,500	-
Sexton II	-	-	-	-
Nursery	370	2,891	798	3,000
Nursery Coordinator	-	-	-	-
Director of Music	14,458	14,827	14,892	15,636
Organist	16,704	16,992	17,036	17,888
Organist Mileage	910	911	937	1,625
Handbell Director	7,624	7,819	7,853	8,245
Outreach Coordinator	6,624	-	-	-
NYS Unemployment Ins.	1,427	1,916	824	1,950
Employer Payroll Taxes	11,698	9,131	11,536	10,692
Accounting Services	17,700	141	17,510	-
Payroll Services	2,404	2,912	2,575	3,000
Workers Comp Insurance	-	7,373	-	7,373
NYS Disability/PFL Ins.	-	463	955	475
<b>Payroll Totals</b>	<b>\$ 288,454</b>	<b>\$ 282,043</b>	<b>\$ 265,406</b>	<b>\$ 325,614</b>
Pastor Moving Expense	15,775	-	-	-
<b>Personnel Totals</b>	<b>\$ 304,229</b>	<b>\$ 282,043</b>	<b>\$ 265,406</b>	<b>\$ 325,614</b>

# THE ENDOWMENT FUND

The endowment of the First Presbyterian Church is \$5,929,993. The fund's value declined \$1,363,159 – a 19% loss in 2022. At the same time the endowment provided the church an income of \$276,504.

Last year was tough. The nation's financial markets declined widely as the economy faced high inflation, supply chain shortages impacting the production of goods and services, political turmoil at home and around the world and the Russian challenge to Ukrainian sovereignty.

The church faces unprecedented fiscal challenges in 2023. The costs of rebuilding the steeple and maintaining the exterior walls of the church exceed \$2,000,000. The church has received an extraordinary gift of \$1,000,000 toward those expenses. That gift is not included in the endowment but it has been invested in short term assets to provide income, preserve capital and provide liquidity.

That leaves the church facing a shortfall of \$1,000,000. If those funds are underwritten by the endowment the annual income of the church will be reduced \$50,000 a year or 18%.

The endowment committee recommends that the church embark on a capital campaign asking the members for multi-year commitments to meet the unfunded costs.

The committee regularly reviews the allocation of assets between bonds and equities to reduce the impact of sharp market declines. Such transfers however may restrain growth during period of sharp increases in equity values and conversely protect to an extent the church in periods of negative market returns.

At year end the endowment consisted of 65% equities and 35% fixed income. The investment policy of the church calls for a range of 55% to 65% in equities and the balance in bonds.

The endowment committee will monitor the investment allocation as the year develops.

The return on the RBC fixed income account was -1.63% net of fees exceeding its benchmark -- the Bloomberg US Gov/Credit 1-5 years index which declined 5.50%. The return on the equity account at Morgan Stanley -26.24% lagged the S & P Total Return Index of -18.11% and the Dow – 6.86%. Anchor Capital's return of -11.64% compared favorably with the Russell Mid Cap Value Average which declined 12.03%. Estabrook's return of -14.31% was better than the S&P 500 average of -18.11%. However it lagged the performance of the Dow.

The income paid to the church represented 5.0% of the average value of the endowment for the previous three years. The Session's investment guidelines set a goal for the spending rate at 4% to 5%

Here is a statistical recap of the endowment for 2022.

**Additions to the Endowment in 2022:**

None

**Endowment Value:**

Manager Name	12/31/22 Value	Total Net Return
<b>RBC Wealth Management:</b>		
Bonds	\$2,048,835	-1.63%
Estabrook	\$1,860,472	-14.31%
Anchor	\$418,648	-11.64%
<b>Morgan Stanley:</b>		
Equities	\$1,602,038	-26.24%

(Net return is after all management fees and commissions. The account managers have adjusted beginning and ending values to recognize the infusion and withdrawal of capital during the year and to make comparisons possible.)

**Other Trusts and Funds:**

## 2022 Income

Wendy Walker Memorial ..... \$ 934

**Annual Values of Endowment Managed on behalf of the Church:**

1988	784,084
1989	842,935
1990	828,684
1991	922,887
1992	1,707,814
1993	2,481,966
1994	2,474,405
1995	3,044,284
1996	3,363,756
1997	3,739,066
1998	4,146,791
1999	4,563,128
2000	4,697,893
2001	4,522,722
2002	4,344,783
2003	4,655,440
2004	4,317,606
2005	4,340,861
2006	4,321,863
2007	4,677,421
2008	3,494,918
2009	4,422,092
2010	4,523,656
2011	4,250,279
2012	4,391,620
2013	5,098,482
2014	5,383,932
2015	5,189,350
2016	5,252,838
2017	5,634,090

2018 .....	5,298,660
2019 .....	6,157,789
2020 .....	6,527,810
2021 .....	7,293,152
2022 .....	5,929,993

**Application of Income:**

By action of the Session the church allocated 5.0% of the average value of the endowment over the prior three years as 2022 income.

Income distributed from Endowment .....\$ 276,504

**Income Allocation:**

Current Spending .....	\$3,059
Paul F. Brown Fund .....	33,031
Elizabeth Brown Fund .....	21,756
Carolyn Whitney Fund.....	27,615
Unrestricted .....	92,619
Graves Mission Account.....	41,716
Faith Fund .....	3,944
Deacons Fund .....	1,636
Hyde Flower Fund .....	541
Hyde Building Fund .....	1,082
Harlow Farmer Fund.....	7,803
Matson Fund .....	380
Seeber Fund .....	278
Simpson Fund .....	888
Walker Fund.....	2,054
Boudia Fund .....	33,180
Budgeted Benevolence .....	4,922
Graves Building fund accrued in 2022 .....	46,352
<b>Total Income Allocation .....</b>	<b>322,856</b>
<b>Less Graves Building Fund not Distributed .....</b>	<b>46,352</b>
<b>Income Distributed from Endowment .....</b>	<b>276,504</b>

**Graves Building Fund:**

Beginning Balance 12/31/21 .....	\$41,274
Additions: 2022 Accrual .....	\$46,352
Total .....	\$87,626
Less: Expenditures .....	41,274
Ending Balance 12/31/22.....	\$ 46,352

In addition, a gift of \$66,420 from Mabel Walker in 2021 was held in the Endowment until the session resolved that it be distributed to the Church in 2022.

Respectfully,

The Endowment Committee

John B. Johnson, Jr. Chair, Phil Sprague, Merle Tousant, Betsy Klug, Peter Schmitt

# STEWARDSHIP

Our stewardship theme this past fall for the 2023 year was: *“Blessed to be a Blessing”*. This theme carries the message that each of us is blessed in such a way that we can pass our blessings to others, or, “Give, because you have been given to.”

Pastor Andrew recommended that our campaign’s interactions with the congregation - letters, sermons and witness presentations should explore what it means for God to be present in our lives and how to respond. In continuation, Pastor Andrew authored the following message that asked us to imagine our annual theme from the perspective of Abraham and Sarah as depicted in Genesis 12.

“God instructing Abraham and Sarah to leave the land of their ancestors and journey to a place that He would show them. What is striking about this narrative is that God never tells Abram and Sarai where they are going, only that God will be with them. This is the first time in the Bible where we hear the word ‘blessing’ used as a direct action from God toward humanity, and the nature of the blessing is God’s presence as they journey. God tells Abram and Sarai that they have been ‘Blessed to Be a Blessing,’ meaning that they have been given God’s presence to bring that same presence into the lives of others. Later, in Genesis, Abram and Sarai fulfill this calling and their names are changed to Abraham and Sarah, which means ‘Father and Mother of Many.’”

As for the artwork of our pledge card, Pastor Andrew suggested a picture of the stars and planets in space. Pastor Andrew sees the calling to Abram and Sarai when God says that the fulfillment of their faithfulness will result in the blessing of off-spring, ‘as numerous as the stars.’ And, indeed, they had a huge family. From our perspective, this is more about the number of people one can grace with the good news of God; each of us is blessed in such a way that we can pass our blessings to others.

With this direction our stewardship campaign schedule was set. We began with a stewardship letter that included a pledge card mailed in October to all our members and friends of FPC, authored by Pastor Andrew. Our pledge card was beautifully designed by Carolyn Osborne. There followed two sermons by Pastor Andrew and a final sermon presented by Bob Gorman. Included with each of Pastor Andrew’s weekly sermons were two witness presentations.

Our first witness presenter was Heather White regarding her thankful response to blessings by building a mission in education for Malawi. The second witness message was offered by Don Klug. The message suggested we express our gratefulness through gifts of both our treasure and of Christian mission actions in our local, national, and international community.

A second stewardship letter, authored by Pastor Andrew was mailed in early January to those that missed our stewardship Sunday pledge offering service due to unusual weather conditions in November. The stewardship committee subsequently followed up by contacting any members we missed in late January to early February.

Thanks is expressed on my behalf to committee members Bob Gorman, Carolyn Osborne and phone contact members who expressed a desire of anonymity. We also thank Rev. Dr. Long and Heather White for their expert participation. Additionally, we also recognize our administrative employees Stacy Bristow and Sue Beaman for their invaluable assistance throughout this campaign.

Our congregation and friends of FPC stewardship response is still ongoing as this report is written. We anticipate that we will be close to the seventy plus pledge units received in 2022. Twenty-seven percent of our pledges increased their gifts while forty percent remained at 2022 levels. New member pledges replaced the five percent loss from 2022. Stewardship is perceived as a year-round activity as our committee plans to remain involved throughout the coming year. Be a blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Klug

## **MEMBERSHIP/DISCIPLISHIP**

The Discipleship/Membership Committee met only a few times in early 2022, mainly to finish and publish the in-house church directory which was available at the annual congregational meeting. Unfortunately, the committee remained inactive for most of 2022. We wanted to host a new/prospective members luncheon in the early fall, but life's complications got in the way. Increasing and nurturing membership, maintaining accurate membership rolls and maintaining an up-to-date church directory remain important duties of the committee; however, the committee's focus has also shifted to nurturing discipleship as individuals and as a congregation. The committee continues to be dedicated to spearheading/supporting activities that are driven by one of the three initiatives from the New Beginnings steering committee: **"DISCIPLISHIP with FAITH."**

We lost two committee members this past year, so at least two spots are open. Please let Bunny Gorman know if YOU would like to be a part of this committee or if you have ideas for activities or projects to be sponsored by this committee.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Bunny Gorman (Chair), Bob Gorman, Becky Brown, Deanne Scanlon, Cindy Ahlheim

Respectfully submitted,  
Bunny Gorman, chairperson

# FACILITIES

Committee Members:

Jonathan White (chair), Mike Stratton, Ken Reed, Linya Bell and Kim Collins

We met monthly and I want to thank all of you for your valued insight and input.

The Facilities Committee responsibility is for the general maintenance, cleanliness, and project planning of the First Presbyterian Church Facility and campus.

## 2022

- completed installation of the insulation wrap of Boilersteam pipes in the basement.
- Hired Art Boughton as the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian sexton, Monday-Friday
- The old Youth room in the basement has been emptied, cleaned and is now being used by the "Spare Closet"
- installed electricity to the Storage Shed.
- Relocated the multi ethnic group to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lounge to provide one location for them and electronics.
- Purchased a new snow blower for sidewalks
- moving of 1<sup>st</sup> floor office spaces to make better use of the facility
- met with Mari Cecil from Bernier Carr regarding the Steeple Bell Tower issues, had
- prepared analysis supplied by BCA with recommendations and next steps.
- Had a congregational meeting regarding the steeple project and with Session's approval are moving forward
- NYS Green Job Energy Study looking at windows, doors, water heaters and insulation for efficiency
- New radio ministry computer has been installed
- Church Bell replacement brackets have been installed

## 2023 Upcoming projects

- Stained glass window repair and protective coating installation, Associated Crafts & Willet Hauser
- New basement windows to be installed
- Steeple/ Bell Tower renovation; slate shingle, copper, ornamental wood work, wooden louvers brick work
- extensive ongoing project list created and being worked on as time and seasons allow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan White



## WORSHIP & MUSIC

The Worship and Music committee is honored to plan for and provide our congregation the spoken word and music for Sunday services, weddings, funerals, and special services. Special services have included a healing service, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, Kirkin' O' the Tartan, Christmas Pageant Sunday, and the Christmas Eve services.

Along with overseeing worship services, the committee helps to prepare the Communion Elements, assists the flower committee to provide sanctuary décor, and oversees radio ministry and sound enhancement. Assignment lists for Ushers, Lay Readers, and Communion servers are also prepared by the committee.

Special music was provided this year by Molto Brass, Trillium Music Center, our resident bagpiper Caitlin Lee. Many soloists and volunteers provided music for our services throughout the year.

Maintenance projects this year included refurbishing our Malmark handbells and our Steinway grand piano. The bells have been completed and returned. We look forward to the day the piano will be placed back on the chancel to help enhance our services. Thank you to all who have donated to this refurbishing. With your support this piano will last another 100 years. This is a great legacy to have at First Pres.

There was a lovely wedding held on the labyrinth this past summer. It's a reminder that the outdoor space we have created can be better utilized in the future.

We added puppets to some of our services giving an opportunity for our younger congregants to participate in the service. We look forward to creating more opportunities of Worship with participation for all members of our congregation.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who participate by offering their time and talents, which continually provide spiritually uplifting services.

The members of the Worship and Music Committee for 2022 included: Michele Bariteau, Organist Carl Bingle, Nancy Boynton, Katrina Cox, Cherie Danforth, Phyllis Elmer, Director of Music Sara Gleason, Handbell Director Jenny Whitenack, Matt Willaman, and chairperson David Elmer.

Respectfully Submitted,

### 2022 FLOWER FUND

The Flower Fund's positive balance this year has enabled your Worship and Music to consider supporting other needs while still providing the seasonal flower decorations in memory and honor of our loved ones for both Easter and Christmas.

This year your Worship and Music Committee recommended that the usual collection of funds to support both the Easter Flower fund and the Poinsettia Flower Fund serve as a collection to support other needs. Your Session has approved both these measures in 2022 as follows:

The **Easter Flower Fund provided a donation of \$2,080 to the Meals on Wheels project**, a program of the Watertown Urban Mission, as it supports daily meals for many elderly in our community. The **Poinsettia Flower Collection brought in \$3,580** which was directed to the [FPC Steinway Refurbishing Fund!](#)

You have helped us provide important fiscal support to two community fundraising activities. Thank you for your participation.

Linya Bell

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are grateful for our Sunday school teachers Bunny Gorman, Lucy Hiotis, Kelly and Pete Thomas. In addition, Heather White helped our students learn about MELT and its book projects for children in Malawi. We use the Dig In Foundations of Faith series Sunday school curriculum that combines videos, crafts and lessons to engage our students in their learning experiences. We do not have lessons on Communion Sundays. Many thanks to Jillian Norris and Aleesha Gill for keeping our littlest ones safe as they staff our nursery during worship and adult education events.

In July we had 4 weekly sessions of Vacation Bible School with the theme "Make Waves", which emphasized to the children that even they can change the world by their actions. Bunny Gorman was our leader. We transformed our Fellowship Hall into a boat and the beach with the help of Katie Burgoon Long. We appreciate the assistance of Liz Bonisteel, Carole Brown, Kim Collins, Michele and Angela Elmer, William and Sarah Gerot, Lu Green, Jeannie Greenwood, Lilly Kimball, Beth Linderman, Margot McGorman, Deanne Scanlon, Jane Schmitt, Pete, Kelly and Brie Thomas, Anna Van Slyke, Emily Sprague, Heather Bates Williams, and Julia Wright. Our helpers acted as greeters, guides to the children, lesson teachers and craft educators.

In December we hosted a Christmas breakfast and visit from Santa for both our member and neighborhood children. We enjoyed a hearty meal prepared by Michele Elmer and Bob Kimball, then made crafts, enjoyed a reading of "The Night Before Christmas" by Pastor Andrew, then Santa visited and the children were treated to photos with St. Nick. For the annual Christmas pageant, we presented "Christmas Letters". We are grateful to Michele Elmer and Katie Burgoon Long for adapting the pageant and directing, and our narrator William Gerot.

Our adult education offerings began the year in February as we presented "The Chosen Season One" on Sunday afternoons, and then Donna Dayger led us in the matching book study on Wednesday evenings. In March, Pastor Andrew offered "The Wired Word", a way of studying the Bible through the lens of current events, via Zoom as we started to experience another wave of Covid. We postponed and then presented in late May and June a series of presentations called "Navigating the Waters" on topics relating to the end of life. Pastor Andrew helped us understand our denominational beliefs. We had a thorough presentation from Catherine Quencer regarding legal issues and preparation for this time. We are grateful to Hospice for explaining their vital role in the end of life issues.

The fall began a year-long series titled "Going Deeper". Pastor Long selected 6 books for us to study. We would begin each cycle with a couple of group sessions in Fellowship Hall to discuss the book, then we broke into smaller groups that met at homes to share a meal and dig into topics raised by each book. The first 2 books helped us to see how stories can be seen from multiple points of view. This raises our awareness of how Christianity itself can be a deeply personal journey, yet grounded in common principles. For Advent we planned to co-ordinate educational offerings along with a sermon series on the music from Handel's Messiah.

The Men's Breakfast group met twice a month this year. Pastor Andrew was the chef with assistance from others. For 2023 they will meet once a month, but plan to have more guest speakers.

Finally thank you to our Christian education committee members for their continued service: Michele Elmer, Nancy Kall, Kelly Thomas, Lucy Hiotis, Sara Gleason, Bunny Gorman and Kim Collins. We appreciate Michele downloading videos and lesson materials each week for Sunday school. We meet via Zoom, so anyone with interest in our education offerings is welcome to join us.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Collins, Co-chair

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Personnel committee: Co-chairs - Doug Danforth and Donna Dayger  
Members: Russ McCullough, Kathryn Ann Kolton, Mike Stratton

Our valued staff at Watertown First Presbyterian Church are an indispensable asset to the functioning and offerings of our church. They have demonstrated amazing flexibility and dedication during 2022 in support of our mission and goals.

February 7 - the committee agreed that we should seek a new financial manager who has the experience and qualifications to fulfil our needs. We will also be seeking a building manager to be interviewed by Reverend Andrew and Mike Stratton. In the interim, a commercial cleaning company has been engaged. Detailed job descriptions for Church Administrator and Office Assistant are being finalized.

May 26 - Sue Beaman submitted her thoughts regarding her position currently and in the future. We also approved her summer leave request.

June 9 - the committee approved Pastor Andrew's request to participate in a pastoral leadership seminar and follow-up coaching (the results of which are already noticeable).

August - Final job descriptions for Office Assistant and Church Administrator were presented to the committee.

September - An extremely qualified and experienced Church Administrator, Stacy Bristow, has been hired. She is working hard to put our financial affairs in order and utilize our new software.

December - Art Boughton has been hired as our Building Manager. He is doing a fantastic job in keeping all areas in the building clean and orderly, as well as handling outside snow and ice removal. Sue Beaman is pleased with her new hourly arrangement and glad to have Stacy's support.

January 19, 2023 - Session approved COL increases for all staff, except new hires, and a bonus for Pastor Andrew.

We are indeed fortunate to have a devoted staff who often go above and beyond their assigned duties. We would like to thank Pastor Andrew for helping us pull together and lead our exceptionally dedicated team. May God bless and direct our efforts to thrive and continue to be a dynamic presence in our community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Dayger, Co-chair

## EVANGELISM AND COMMUNITY PRESENCE

Following the success of our 2022 Farmers Market initiative, our group, enthusiastically led by Reverend Andrew, opened our church, parking lot, restrooms and changing facilities and greeted hundreds of people each Wednesday. We began the initiative on June 26 and finished up on the last Wednesday of July.

In Matthew 10, Jesus said:

*“Whoever welcomes you, welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the One who sent me...And whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these Little ones, in the name of a disciple - truly, I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”*

With the assistance of Bob Kimball, Liz Bonisteel, Kathryn Ann Kolton, Bob Brown, Rev. Julia Wright, Emily Sprague, Deanna Scanlon, Kathy & Ken Rookie, Bob Gorman, Merle and JoAnn Tousant, Bill & Becky Brown, Rev. Andrew & his wife Katie, (and perhaps most importantly, Theo) and a few others who I apologize in advance for missing, our group distributed approximately 800 bottles. In many instances, fabulous conversations were initiated, and we had an excellent opportunity to tell people who we are, and what we strive to accomplish.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Sprague

# OUTREACH & MISSION

The Outreach and Mission Committee is responsible for recommending to the Session how endowment Income funds should be allocated for the support of various mission projects and programs that align with the wishes of the donors and meet the mission goals of our congregation, which includes providing Christian leadership and care in our community and beyond and mission with relationship.

In spite of uncertainty and market changes in our world following COVID -19, we have kept a close watch on details of our donations and personally mailed donations with notes for each payment, and have received notes back of progress from our recipients. For the most part, this has helped both us and them feel a stronger connection. Members of the Outreach Committee for 2022 were Bill Barden, Janet Blakeman, Bob Brown, Clancy Cox, Margot McGorman, Carolyn Osborne, Kathy Rucki, Heather White, and chair Linya Bell.

**Boudia Fund:**

The Martha N. Boudia Memorial Fund was established by Najali Boudia in Memory of her mother. On September 19, 1982, a congregational meeting directed that ‘the income of such fund be used for benevolent purposes outside the budget.’ Most of our church’s International mission support is financed by this fund. However, it is available, when needed, for local support. In 2022 the following grants were made from the Boudia Fund.

MELT & Dr. Long’s trip to Malawi 8/22	\$13,000.00
Tyler Holm Ministry	5,000.00
Sam & Grace Chirwa Emergency Support	1,545.00
PCUSA Disaster Fund for Ukraine Match	3,500.00
Ukraine - Silze Rodman/Utica Church project	1,000.00
MELT 11/22 appeal matching grant	3,000.00
WOG Matching Xmas '21 grant	<u>3,500.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,545.00</b>

**Matson Fund:**

Funds are offered to “young people (ages 10-25) of First Presbyterian Church to participate in broader opportunities relating to their spiritual growth.”

Cost of WFPC Puppet Team:	\$865.76
(Matson Fund contribution                      380.00	
EB Unified Fund contribution                      485.76)	
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$865.76</u></b>

**Elizabeth Brown Fund:**

This fund was established in 2007 by a bequest from Elizabeth Brown, long-time church member and officer. Her will requested that these funds be provided to the endowment and used for mission purposes with an emphasis on youth programs. The following grants were made from the Elizabeth Brown Mission Fund in 2022.

YMCA Capital Campaign '22	\$10,000.00
Victim’s Assistance Center	2,000.00
Theresa First Presbyterian Church VBS	<u>1,500.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$13,500.00</b>

**Elizabeth Brown – Unified Mission:**

The session annually designates one-half of the endowment proceeds from the Elizabeth Brown Bequest to the Unified Mission of the Presbytery. As the presbytery has not recently used these funds, they have accumulated in this account, and Session decided that the Outreach Committee could have access to these funds for purposes that can be related to the Presbytery.

**Faith Fund:** This fund was established in 1968 following the closing and sale of the Faith Chapel, which had been established years earlier as an outreach of First Presbyterian Church. No grants were made from this fund in 2022.

**Graves Mission Fund:** This fund was established by a bequest from Mrs. Doris T. Graves who had been a deacon in this church. Her will requested that “the Session give preference to mission causes within the County of Jefferson and the State of New York. Accordingly, the following grants were made from the Graves Mission in 2022.

Watertown Urban Mission Monthly Operational Grant	\$12,000.00
YMCA Capital Campaign '22	10,000.00
Hospice Capital Campaign '22	5,000.00
Open Table - Deacons Fund	5,500.00
Watertown Catechetical for Special Religious Ed.	1,500.00
Cornell Cooperative Extension for Community Garden (for WUM pantry)	1,500.00
Thompson Park memorial Garden	1,000.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$36,500.00</b>

**Special Mission Congregational Campaign Ukraine Appeal:**

PCUSA Disaster Fund for Ukraine (Boudia 6,500 match)	6,500.00
Ukraine Silze Rodman/Utica Church project (1,000 Boudia match)	2,555.00
Carryover for 2023	200.00
<b>TOTAL of congregational gift (not from Outreach Funds)</b>	<b>\$9,255.00</b>

**Financial Summary**

Total of outreach grant funds awarded in 2022	<b>\$81,410.76</b>
Congregation’s Ukraine drive fund	<u>9,055.00</u>
	<b>\$90,465.76 disbursed</b>

**Grants Pending** – annual payments and amounts

YMCA Capital Campaign	\$20,000.00 EBF/Graves through 2025
Tyler Holm	\$ 5,000.00 Boudia through 2024
Hospice	\$ 5,000.00 Capital Campaign Graves through 2023

**2023 Anticipated Grants Available:**

Elizabeth Brown Mission	\$15,929.90
EBF Unified Mission	15,929.90
Graves Mission	47,157.79
Faith	1,747.68
Matson	236.97
Boudia	21,564.79

**New Funds added to this committee’s supervision**

Bags Mission	\$947.90
Stirling Mission	236.97
VanAllen Mission	<u>1,066.38</u>

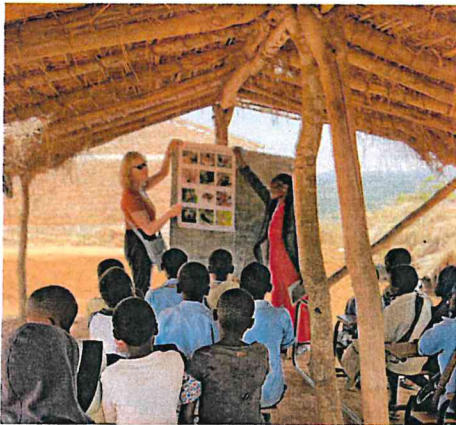
**Total Grant Funds Available for 2023** **\$104,818.28**

Respectfully submitted,

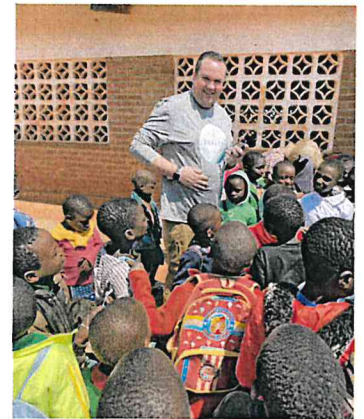
Linya Bell, chair

# FIRST PRES. REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

Outreach Grants Helping to Fund the Community Garden, the New YMCA, and the Open Table



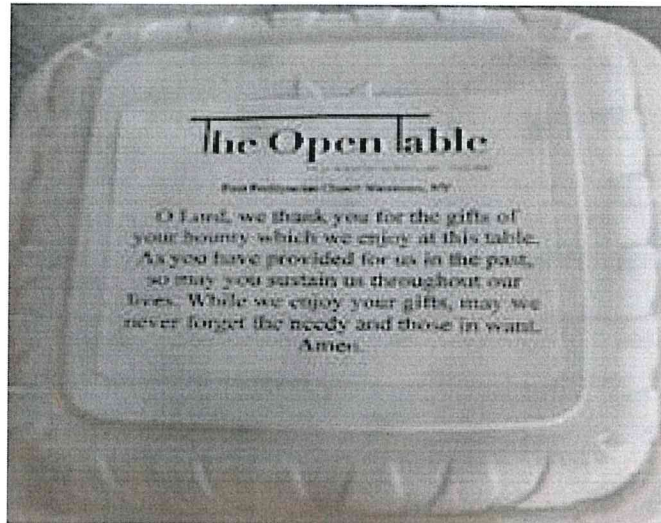
Heather White and Pastor Andrew working with the Malawians on their 2022 trip to Malawi



Food collected by the First Pres. Church Family during Lent and Thanksgiving was delivered to the Watertown Urban Mission.



## OPEN TABLE



One Sunday after church in 2022 we had a meeting in Fellowship Hall, under Pastor Andrew's leadership, about feeding the hungry in our community.

Questions were asked: do we bring back dollar dinners, do we try something different, who would do it, what does it look like? Those present resoundingly wanted to offer meals to our community.

After some brainstorming we decided 2 things:  
we didn't want to charge for meals, and we needed a committee to run it.

**The Open Table committee**, Pastor Andrew, Katie Burgoon Long, Michele Bariteau, Dave, Michele, Melissa, and Angela Elmer, met to discuss menus, the process of serving people and how to make this mission a reality.

Meetings occur quarterly to discuss how we are doing and any improvements we can make.

February 27, 2022, we began this new *mission with relationships* by serving a free meal to our community. This free meal has been made possible with funding from the Outreach Committee. We have served about 1,500 dinners for about \$5,600 in the last 11 months. We offer delivery to church members who are not able to come out.

This whole process would not be possible without the volunteers who come each month to give a helping hand. We would like to personally thank you, the volunteers who have joined us: Carole Brown, Lu Green, Katrina Cox, Ken & Kathy Rucki, their neighbors, Bob Kimball, Kathryn Ann Kolton, Becky & Bob Brown, John & Susan Johnson, Kelly Thomas, Liz Bonisteel, Margot McGorman, Chris Kamalsky, Kim Collins, Merle & Joanne Tousant, Linya Bell, her daughter Robin and grandson, Johnathan & Heather White. We even have had some Mormon lads help us out! Just this last month the Christ's Faith Christian Project (the group using our lounge on Sunday's) joined us in serving. We hope to continue this partnership. Every month donations from patrons and members are received and we thank you.

Respectfully submitted by  
The *Open Table* Committee



# **Malawi Early Literacy Team – M.E.L.T.**

*An ecumenical Mission of Watertown First Presbyterian Church  
supporting M.E.L.T. CBO in Mzuzu, Malawi.*

*Our mission provides culturally responsible early readers, materials,  
and teacher training to 20 schools in rural Northern Malawi.*

*Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them: for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.  
~Matthew 19:14*

## **Committee Members:**

Andy Burns, Patricia Constable, Barbara Eldridge, Peyton Hynla, Joanne Lavarney,  
Margot McGorman, Carolyn Osborne, Carol Stevens, Heather White

## **Crane Cargo**

A shipment of 1500 new books, literacy materials, and workshop materials was successfully shipped to Malawi over the Winter months.

## **2022 A Year of Celebration - Return to Malawi**

First and foremost was a team returning to Malawi in August  
Andy Burns, Rev. Dr. Andrew Long, Carol Stevens, and Heather White.

We accomplished a lot in three weeks:

- school visits
- library building details
- teacher training workshops
- book designs
- created a professional space for teacher meetings at the library

Rev. Andrew built relationships everywhere we went and out on his own with the Presbytery in Mzuzu.

The grandest day was the Grand Opening Ceremony for the MELT Central Library – long awaited due to COVID. I think we were most impressed that the team in Malawi with their commitment and hard work kept all the programs going during our absence.

## **Fall 2022 – A Busy Season**

We returned from Malawi to a busy Fall beginning with the design and publication of the MELT annual newsletter, one of our major fundraisers. Four new titles were prepared and sent to publication. Two titles were written with Malawian teachers as authors – the first in our collection and critical to the ownership of the program from MELT Malawi.

November focused on the MELT Take Out dinner. This highly successful fundraiser/friend raiser is only made possible due to the expert help of chef Cindy Hall Swan- we thank you!

## **2022 Publications- WOW! What a Year!**

Five new culturally responsible books were published in 2022, 500 copies each, that's 2500 books added to the MELT Central Library Program! We have 30 titles as we work to reach our goal of 50 titles!

Our humble thanks to all volunteers, donors, and those who help us in prayer.

Thank you,  
Heather White M.E.L.T. USA Chair

## SHALLOW WELLS REPORT

Watertown First Presbyterian Church and partner Marion Medical Mission are thankful for many generous gifts towards the protected shallow wells program in 2022. Over thirty families and churches have donated gifts of \$14,295 this past fall which will support thirty-one plus shallow wells in Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, and Mozambique. Clean water now flows for 4,550 people, of which 2,500 are children. You have given the gift of life! THANK YOU!

Since 1990, Marion Medical Mission, has played an active role in the fight against contaminated water sources in rural Malawi and adjoining countries by supplying access to clean water. Year after year MMM matches volunteers and donors in the never-ending battle to prevent water borne illness and death. Because of donors like you, Northern New York churches and friends continue to provide the funds that save lives. A total of over 44,000 shallow wells have been built in Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia, providing over 6.7 million people with a sustainable source of safe drinking water. This year MMM volunteers along with Malawian workers and village helpers built 3,885 shallow wells.

Joel Magee is an American volunteer and was my partner when I last was in Malawi in 2008. In 2017 Joel was on his eighth trip to install and dedicate shallow wells. He authored this story titled, **"A Miracle that Never Gets Old."**

*Inscribed on top of every MMM well are the words "Glory to God" in English and in the native language. Every time water flows from the well the message inscription reminds one to give thanks, now knowing that "water is life." A simple statement, but very profound after one has spent such a short time in Africa.*

*I still get excited watching clear clean water pour from the new pumps, especially after seeing the watering hole they replaced. Often, it is a hole in the ground, colored gray or green with cut-out steps leading down to a precarious landing where the mamas can kneel and dip their 5-gallon pail into the murky water. Every year is a different experience. This year was special in that my niece went with me to Tanzania where we installed and dedicated 251 new protected water wells. The driving was still challenging, the walks difficult, yet the results were most gratifying; clean water for remote villages where previously they had shared their water resources with their livestock and wild animals.*

*After every well dedication the villagers recited thanks to the American donors and encouraged us to relate the continued need that their neighbors need wells as much as they. What we take for granted back home they see as a miracle. The prayer a villager gives at every dedication conveys a powerful thanksgiving for this life-giving substance. Even though the language is in Swahili you can tell by their inflections, tone, length, and key words (baba=father, asante, asante, which means thank you, thank you) that these people are so moved as they give their heartfelt thanks to God for this blessing.*

*Bringing clean water to these remote villages truly is a miracle that never gets old! Sharing in that accomplishment is a great joy.*

No longer do the village women have to walk miles to a water location of polluted water. No longer will they see their children suffer sickness or die from contaminated water. Now they will see their children grow and become what every parent hopes for their children. Know that in the name of 'Jesus Christ,' our gifts changed lives. Thank you for your generosity.

*The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

*- Matthew 25:40*

Respectfully submitted,

Don Klug, FPC & MMM Shallow Well Volunteer

# WOMEN OF GRACE WIDOWS' FUND

An Ecumenical Mission Project in Northern New York

"The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow"

Psalm 146 v9

Board Members: Renee Waterbury, Kathy Curtis, Cindy Hall Swan, Margot McGorman, Andrea Swan, Angela Elmer

The Women of Grace Widows Fund has been working with 45 widows in 3 villages in northern Malawi since 2008. The fund has helped the widows establish some small businesses (selling charcoal, raising chickens and pigs) and has provided training in sewing, allowing the widows to earn money making PantiPlus menstrual hygiene kits, which are donated to local, needy teen girls. A win-win for the community!

Sam Chirwa, our Malawi field manager, continues to provide "boots on the ground" recommendations about short and long term needs. He ensures that donations are used most effectively for housing improvements and critical needs.

The Women of Grace newsletter is printed annually to share the joys and challenges faced by the widows and the WOG Widows Fund. It is available at the church.

From 2020 to 2022, travel to Malawi was not possible due to the Covid pandemic. In May 2023, a mission team will return to Malawi to review the sewing project, look at recent upgrades to widows' homes, and meet with the widows to listen and discern future directions and plans.

We sincerely appreciate the strong, prayerful support that the Women of Grace Fund continues to receive from individuals and congregations across the presbytery. We are truly grateful for the consistent support of the Session at First Presbyterian Church, particularly the allocation of the Christmas Eve Offering, which helps us meet the needs of the widows under our care.

The funding goal for 2023 is \$13,470, exclusive of mission trip expenses.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board,  
Margot McGorman

## BOARD OF DEACONS

The ministry of a Deacon is established in the book of Acts shortly after Christ's ascension into heaven. As the 12 disciples continued the work that Jesus had started among them, they soon realized that the needs far exceeded their ability. This was especially seen in how the disciples struggled to serve the hungry, the widows, and the orphans in their community. So they called together men and women from all across the community to aid them in meeting the needs of their neighbors. Those first Deacons, like our own, were concerned with meeting the direct needs of the community, leaving the disciples to their work of discernment and governance. This is where the church office of Deacon began and it is the pattern by which our Deacons function today.

From visiting the sick and lonely, to feeding the hungry, and making grants to organizations committed to direct assistance, FPC's Deacons are faithful, committed, and working hard to bring the light of Christ into the lives of many!

In 2022 the Deacons meet regularly to review and pray over a Congregational Care List, which includes members of the church in need of care. Deacons were assigned to the members on this list and committed to visiting and keeping in contact throughout the year. The assigned Deacon would also bring reports back to the Board for prayer and discussion. Special cards and small gifts were delivered by the Deacons at various holy days throughout the year.

Thanks to Chris Kamalsky, the Deacons continue a robust card ministry, where every member of the church receives a card for their birthday from the Deacons.

Under the leadership of Michele Elmer, the Deacons and others continue to provide for our weekly fellowship time following worship. These committed volunteers also showed up throughout the year to provide meals and fellowship during the holy days, for VBS, and at others times when our community gathered.

The biggest and most inspirational task the Deacons took on this year was cleaning out the large basement room in order to welcome The Spare Closet. Chris Kamalsky, Katrina Cox, Liz Bonisteel, the Facilities Committee, and our faithful staff worked for weeks to sort, clean, and prepare the room for this important ministry. Each week The Spare Closet welcomes neighbors from our community in need of clothing, shoes, and household good - all free of charge. Deacons and church members are also serving as volunteers at The Spare Closet.

This, then, led the Deacons into many discussions about fundraising and what funds are available through the church's endowments for their work. In 2023 the Deacons plan to discuss and then enact a grant giving process similar to the Outreach Committee, welcoming applications from direct assistance organizations in our community.

This is just a snapshot of what your Deacons accomplished in 2022. In 2023 we will continue to serve our congregation through prayer and visitation, and we will prayerfully remain aware of needs in our congregation and wider community so as to attend to those needs as we are able. I also plan to continue to moderate the Board of Deacons as their work and mine dovetail nicely; it is also a pleasure to serve with this group of committed church leaders!

In peace,



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

*"So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all,  
and especially for those of the family of faith."*

- Galatians 6: 10

Our PW has completed it's first year as a county wide inclusive group of women of faith. We have been meeting once a month with women from Stone church and First Pres church, apart from a few months of illness and summer break. These changes have not slowed us down one bit! In February we made valentines for our homebound friends. We learned how to crochet prayer squares in March. Heather White shared a program with us recounting her MELT trip to Malawi, at our September gathering. November was a busy month. We had a very successful bake sale on Election Day, at the Stone church polling place. We decided to encourage members of the congregation to give directly to the Thank Offering, rather than going through our local group, and we hope many of you took advantage of that opportunity. We spent a considerable amount of time planning for our Christmas brunch. Our annual brunch was a great success, and we enjoyed a wonderful musical program of French carols, presented by Carl Bingle, to whom we are ever grateful.

We continued to raise money, through the generosity of our members' pledges and the contributions of supporting and caring congregations. We were able to support our usual missions and gave to various charities throughout the year.

It is our hope that we will continue to grow and give in the coming months. All Presbyterian women are invited to join us as we move ahead with our Purpose.

*"Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:*

- *To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,*
- *To support the mission of the church worldwide,*
- *To work for justice and peace, and*
- *To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom."*

Respectfully submitted,  
Maureen Gorman, Treasurer

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF JEFFERSON COUNTY TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance 1-1-2022  
 Watertown Savings Bank - Checking \$2,100.37

**Receipts:**

Annual pledges/gifts	\$ 200.00	
Bake Sale	\$ 738.18	
Birthday Offering	\$ 250.00	
Gift from Stone Presbyterian	\$ 700.00	
Gifts (Miscellaneous)	\$ 120.00	
In Memoriam	\$ 250.00	
Least Coin Offering	\$ 8.00	
Transfer from Savings Account	<u>\$1,318.99</u>	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>\$3,585.17</b>

Total Available \$5,685.54

**Disbursements:**

Birthday Offering	\$ 250.00	
Christmas gratuities	\$ 250.00	
Horizon gift subscriptions	\$ 149.70	
Least Coin Offering	\$ 8.00	
MELT	\$ 300.00	
New checks	\$ 83.00	
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:		
Ukraine	\$ 300.00	
Hurricane Ian Relief	\$ 300.00	
Salvation Army (homeless)	\$ 300.00	
Seaman's Church International	\$ 100.00	
Shallow Wells	\$ 300.00	
Supplies	\$ 25.91	
Valentine mailing	\$ 31.32	

Total Disbursements \$2,797.93

Watertown Savings Bank - Checking  
 Ending Balance 12-31-2022 \$2,887.61

Watertown Saving Bank - Savings		
Beginning Balance (1/1/2022)	\$1,318.49	
Accrued interest	<u>\$ .50</u>	
Ending Balance (1/31/2021)	\$1,318.99	
	(Balance transferred to Checking Account, Savings Account Closed)	

Respectfully submitted,  
 Maureen Gorman, Treasurer

## **RADIO MINISTRY**

First Presbyterian Church continues to provide it's radio mission to our neighbors near and far. Locally we continue to broadcast to the radio station WATN 1240 AM. We also continue to broadcast live by sending our Sunday services worldwide on the internet using Facebook, Youtube, and our website. By using these platforms, we are able to reach shut-ins, vacationers, travelers, and friends across the globe, giving them the chance to participate in our worship service in real time. The radio ministry also continues to provide sound for weddings, funerals, and special community concerts.

Past worship services are available, up to one year, on our church website [www.watertownfirstpres.org](http://www.watertownfirstpres.org). Prior years are available by request.

Reflecting on the last year, we have continued to upgrade our sound and computer systems to improve the quality of our streaming. We obtained a new computer built specifically for our worship needs. We gained a battery backup to power our systems in the event we should lose power. There were also some wonderful volunteers that helped organize our space-thank you Katie Long and Liz Bonisteel. In the year 2022, our reached a total of 9 countries, 42 states, and 3,361 total individuals with our broadcast!

Throughout the coming year, we hope to continue our growth in both technology and volunteers. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the worship and music committee and the congregation as a whole, to allow even more people to worship and participate with us.

Thank you, as always, to our lovely volunteers Ken Reed, John Gleason, Mike Stratton, Marcia Kettrick, Emily Sprague, Katie Burgoon Long, Janneane, Jeremy, and William Gerot. Without their hard work and dedication our ministries would not be possible.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Elmer

**A RECORD of the 219<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING of the CONGREGATION  
of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WATERTOWN, NY  
on February 13, 2022 in the Sanctuary**

The meeting, which followed the worship service, was opened at 11:00 a.m. with prayer by the Reverend Andrew Long.

The appointed clerk determined that a quorum was present; approximately 50 members were in attendance (in-person and virtually), which exceeded the number needed for a quorum (25).

**The agenda was unanimously approved (Motion by Tom Walker/Seconded by Bob Gorman).  
The minutes of the February 7, 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting were unanimously approved as written (Motion by Merle Tousant/Seconded by Katrina Cox).**

**WRITTEN REPORTS:**

Rev. Long presented the written reports (published in the Annual Meeting booklet) from the Capital Campaign, Stewardship, New Beginnings, Discipleship & Membership, Facilities, Worship & Music, Christian Education, Personnel, Community Presence & Evangelism, Outreach & Mission, Women of Grace Widows' Fund, M.E.L.T., Shallow Wells, Board of Deacons, Presbyterian Women, and Radio Ministry. There was time allowed for comments and questions; **all reports were well-received, accepted as information and unanimously approved (Motion by Phil Sprague/Seconded by Tom Walker).**

The Pastor's report was reviewed and received as information.

The congregational meeting was adjourned at 11:04 am; the meeting of the corporation of First Presbyterian church was called to order and opened with prayer by Rev. Long. John B. Johnson, Jr. presented the Endowment Fund report; the fund's value gained \$765,342 or 12% in 2021 and has a current value of \$7,293,152. The endowment provided the church an income of \$246,938, 5.0% of the average value of the endowment for the previous three years. (The Session investment guidelines set a goal for the spending rate at 4% to 5%.) Rev. Long, on a voice vote, closed the corporate meeting at 11:15 and reopened the congregational meeting.

**FINANCIAL REPORT AND 2022 BUDGET:**

Treasurer Merle Tousant gave a brief presentation of the financial summary, year-end 2021 budget (including personnel expenditures), and the 2022 Budget. Actual expenses for 2021 came in at approximately \$81K *over* budget. The 2022 Budget is anticipating an income of approximately \$662K and expenses of approximately \$659K, a difference of approximately \$3K *surplus*. Major capital improvements anticipated in 2022 include approximately \$100K for steeple and roof repairs. Anticipated income from the endowment fund is approximately \$180K. There was time allowed for comments and questions; **the financial report was received, accepted as information and approved unanimously (Motion by Don Klug/Seconded by Phil Sprague). Also, the 2022 Budget was approved unanimously (Motion by Tom Walker/Seconded by Cindy Ahlheim).**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Nominating Committee Chair Doug Danforth presented the slate of officers. Nominated for Session Class of 2025 were Doug Danforth (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Melissa Elmer, Jeremy Gerot, Sara Gleason and Jonathan White (2<sup>nd</sup> term); also nominated for Session were Robert J. Brown (Class of 2023 one-year unexpired term of Deanna Nelson) and Phil Sprague (Class of 2024 two-year unexpired term of Carolyn Osborne). Nominated for the Deacons Class of 2025 were Cherie Danforth (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Michele Elmer and Janneane Gerot; also nominated were Katrina Cox (Class of 2023 one-year unexpired term of Donna Dunkle) and Jane "Wink" Beadel (Class of 2023 one-year unexpired term of Christina MacDonald). There were no nominations from the floor.



**Following a motion by Emily Sprague and a second by Bob Sturtz, the congregation voted unanimously to accept the slate of nominations.**

The Longs were recused from the meeting, David Elmer was appointed temporary moderator, and the pastor's terms of call were reviewed and discussed. After a brief discussion, **the congregation voted unanimously to approved the terms of call as presented (Motion by Mike Stratton/Seconded by Carolyn Osborne)**. The Longs returned and expressed gratitude for the support of the congregation.

There was a time for discussion; various members (Don Klug, Bob Gorman, Liz Bonisteel, and Phil & Emily Sprague) gave thanks and expressed appreciation for our congregation's generosity and perseverance, the work of the PNC and the church's music program.

There being no further pressing business, **there was a motion, a second and a unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting with prayer by Rev. Long at 11:28 am.**

The Rev. Dr. Andrew Philip Long  
Pastor

Bunny Gorman  
Clerk of Session

**Terms of Call**  
*between*  
**The Rev. Dr. Andrew Long**  
*and*  
**First Presbyterian Church, Watertown NY**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Cash Salary	\$64000	\$64000
Housing Allowance	\$25,000	\$25000
<hr/>		
Total Effective Salary	\$89,000	\$89,000
SEC Offset	\$6,809	\$7,191
*Pension and Disability	\$8,900	\$8,900
*Medical/Dental/Vision	\$24,030	\$27,719.63
Mileage Reimbursement	\$1,800	\$1,800
Professional Reimbursement	\$2, 000	\$2,000
Continuing Education	\$3,000	\$3,000
 Total Cost to Church	 \$135,539	 \$139,610.63
 Vacation	 4 weeks	
Study Leave	2 weeks (After every 3 <sup>rd</sup> year 4 weeks)	

\*Pension, disability, and medical costs are set annual by the PC(USA) Board of Pensions. For 2022 Pension and Disability was 10% of Effective Salary; this remains the same for 2023. For 2022 Medical coverage was 27% of Effective Salary; this has risen to 29% for 2023.

# FAITH, LOVE AND JOY AT FIRST PRES.



# OFFICERS

## ELDERS:

Class of 2023  
Bunny Gorman\*  
David Elmer  
Merle Tousant\*  
Matt Willaman

Class of 2024  
Kim Collins  
Donna Dayger  
Don Klug  
Linya Bell\*  
Bob Brown

Class of 2025  
Doug Danforth\*  
Melissa Elmer  
Jeremy Gerot  
Sara Gleason  
Jonathan White\*

## DEACONS:

Class of 2023  
Sherri Bergman  
Becky Brown  
John Gleason

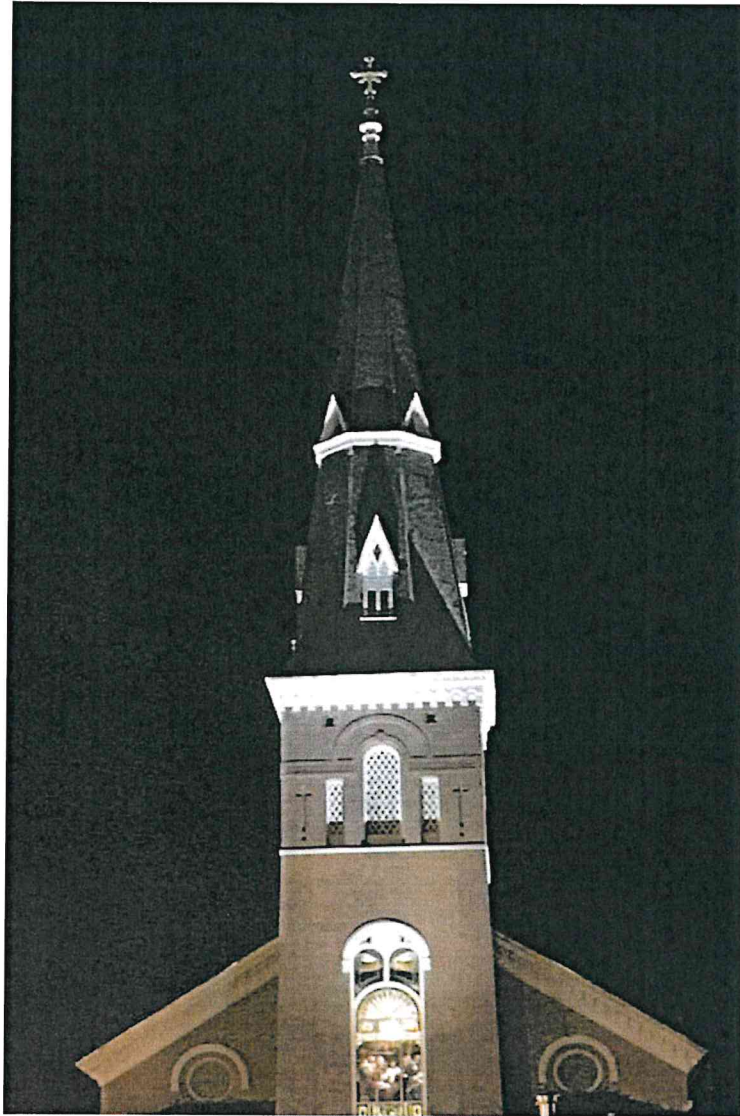
Class of 2024  
Pat Guldenpfennig  
Christine Kamalsky  
Sue Kitto  
JoAnn Tousant

Class of 2025  
Cherie Danforth\*  
Michele Elmer  
Janneane Gerot

Bunny Gorman, Clerk of Session  
Merle Tousant, Treasurer

# STAFF

Andrew Philip Long, Pastor  
Stacey Bristow, Administrator  
Sue Beaman, Secretary  
Art Boughton, Building Supervisor  
Linya Bell, Parish Outreach Coordinator  
Sara D. Gleason, Director of Music  
Carl A. Bingle, Organist  
Jennifer M. Whitenack, Bell Choir Director  
Jillian Norris, Nursery Staff  
Aleesha Gill, Nursery Staff



“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.’

~ Revelation 21:1-4