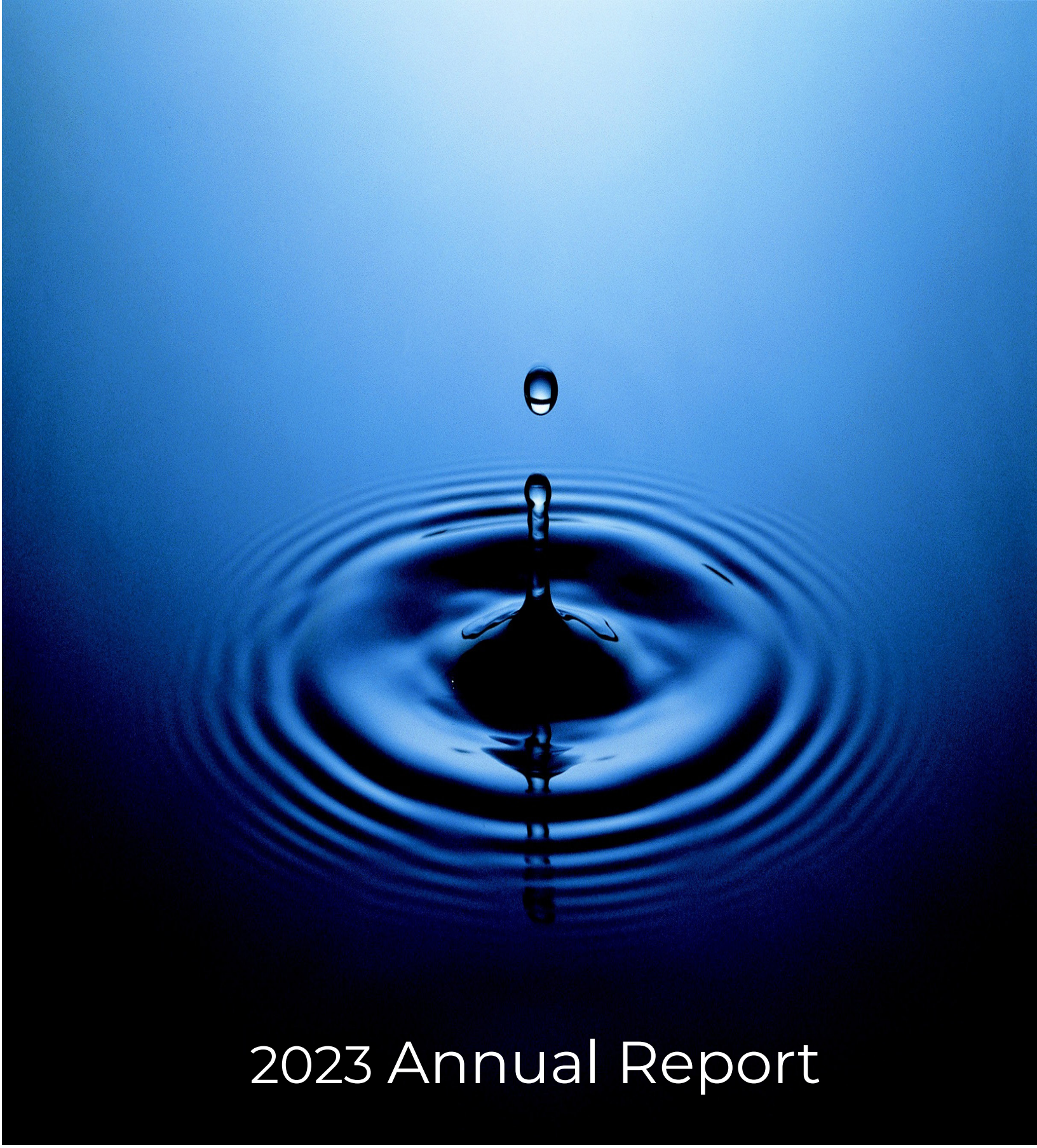

2023 Annual Report

1stPres Downtown | Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Staff

Pastor | **Rev. McLane Stone**

Church Administrator | **Bonnie Piovesan**

Directory of Family Ministry | **Kierstie Renninger**

Director of Worship | **Jenny Shotwell**

Administrative Office Assistants | **Emily Rogers**

Office Assistant / Receptionist | **Naomi White & Susie Olsen**

Church Bookkeeper | **Stephanie Rogge**

Communication Director | **Janet Starkey**

Custodian / Grounds | **Mikal Johnson**

Music Director | **Kent Kimball**

Nursery Care Worker | **Heather Bell**

Sunday School Pre-K through 1st Teacher | **Yvette Wyatt**

Sunday School Second through 5th Teacher | **Tracee Dahm**

Sound Coordinator | **Tyler Renninger**

Worship Accompanist | **Dr. Deborah Rambo Sinn**

Lay Leaders

Clerk of Session | **Yvette Wyatt**

Deacon Co-Chairs | **Cheryl Broadway & Susan Yarbrough**

Presbyterian Women Moderator | **Susan Yarbrough**

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Editing/Proofing

With Thanks to: Jeannie Logozzo, Bonnie Piovesan and Naomi White.
Thanks to the many volunteers who make this church a special place and those who contributed to this report. We have made every effort to assure accuracy and beg forgiveness for any inadvertent errors.

Senior Staff

Pastor | McLane Stone

Brothers and sisters,

As I write this letter, the University of Washington Huskies are preparing to face the Michigan Wolverines in the College Football National Championship. By the time you read this, we will know the outcome (go Dawgs!). Football is an interesting sport. In all of athletics, I doubt there is a sport more impacted by momentum. Ask any student of football what dynamic of the game has the potential to make the most impact, and you will likely be told momentum. Momentum is an interesting part of the game. You cannot measure it nor can you practice it. It is fickle and can shift as a result of one play. To my knowledge, I don't believe that anyone has ever sought to study its impact on the outcome of a game. You know it exists, and you experience its tangible consequences, but you can't define it in any measurable way.

Momentum has been a guiding principle for our congregation in 2023. Like in football, measuring momentum in the church is difficult. I suppose one might look to metrics like attendance and financial giving to decipher momentum in the life of the church, but I'm not convinced that such measurements would paint an honest and accurate picture of all that God is doing in our midst. Over the past year, our attendance and giving have both grown, and for this we ought to be grateful to God for His continued faithfulness. However, these numbers do not fully capture all that God is doing in the life of our congregation.

In football, the best measurement of momentum is the crowd. When defense stops the offense on the goal line, a tangible surge rushes through the bleachers, and you can say with confidence that momentum has shifted. I think the same is true of our church. For my part, the growing momentum of 1st Pres is best experienced in Krueger Hall following worship. Watching our church family support and care for one another is one of the great joys of my role as pastor. Our Love 1st mission is on full display when we gather around coffee and donuts, and the laughter and excitement in the room are a tangible experience of the momentum of our congregation.

Our momentum is rooted in two sources. First, we stand in a long line of people committed to following Jesus Christ and serving Coeur d'Alene. I take pride in belonging to a heritage that has been witnessing to this community stretching all the way back to the 19th century. Our roots are deep, and we all enjoy the fruits from trees that were planted long ago. As we participate in this heritage, we do so with gratitude to those who laid that foundation.

The second source of our momentum is found in the Holy Spirit of God who sustains and empowers our witness, guiding us into the future. God has been faithful to our church, and He will continue to be faithful to it. Our response to this faithfulness is one of gratitude. We are grateful for the many ways that God pushes us forward, calling us to be participants in His loving mission to the world.

As we look to 2024, my prayer is that our church family will continue to listen for God's voice and be guided by the Spirit. In doing so, we will carry our momentum into the future, trusting that its firm foundation will serve as the bedrock of all that we do together.

In gratitude and grace,

Pastor McLane

Clerk of Session | Yvette Wyatt

View from the Lighthouse

“Hey dude, when The Spirit is moving, you gotta go with it.”

These are the prophetic words of a wise beach dude spoken to a weakening riptide dude, who would, in due course and perfect timing, share them with the dudes and dudettes of the ‘Love First’ First Presbyterian Church. Why? Why are these words of wisdom so apropos at this time?

Well, if you will continue to bear with my ocean speak metaphor, I offer my perspective to this question from the vantage point of the Clerk lighthouse:

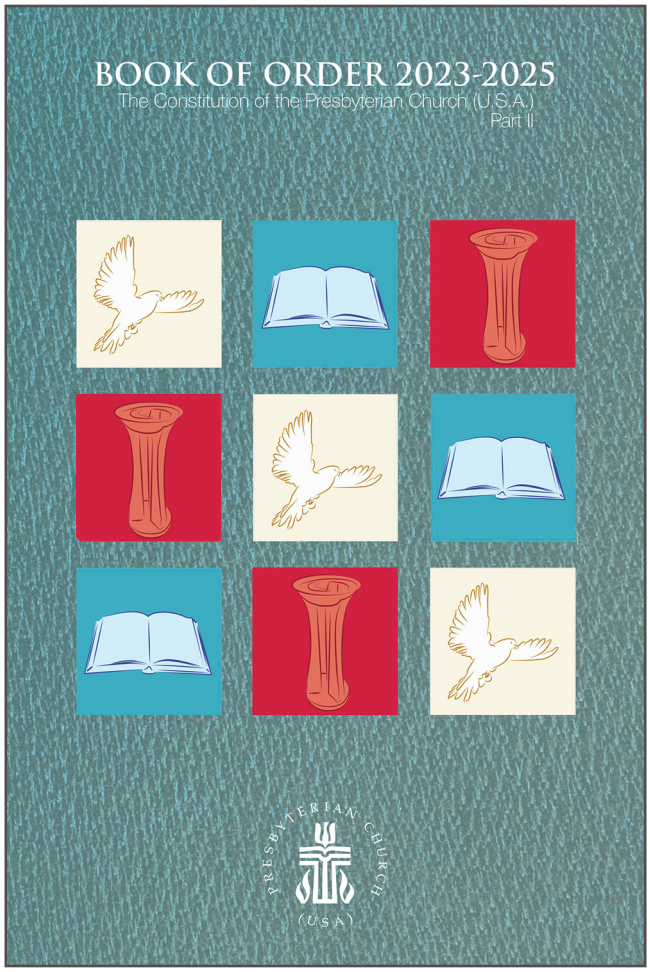
Certainly, God is always present and moving through the love of Christ and the prompting of Spirit. Yet, this past year, there has been a spreading sense of a deep, deep stirring. There seems to be an incredible energy generating from the combination of surface and deep currents moving through the whole church; staff, leadership, the congregation, and guests. This movement, I believe, is the manifested evidence of the powerful current known formerly, presently and for eternity, as The Spirit.

This epiphany is not my personal idea. It is community shared and swelling swiftly. The actions of Spirit are richly apparent within every report that follows. Each team is presenting incredible evidence of God’s

wishes being fulfilled through generous giving, steadfast faith, and Spirit-prompted loving hearts. It is with sincere confidence that I can say that we are responding to the deep calling of Spirit to love God, each other and our neighbors; to seek ways to follow Christ by witnessing to and sharing the love of Jesus; and to grow in understanding every day in how to step forward to answer God’s call to “Go”.

It is my blessing and honor to serve the church family of First Presbyterian Church.

Peace and every good, Yvette



Session Elders

Ruling elders, together with pastors, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church. As part of our leadership team, these individuals are elected by the congregation, serving in specific ways. Together, Elders and Deacons use their gifts to equip the church for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ.

Class of 2023

Warren Bakes
Matt Broadway
Rob Buckham
Carolyn Keefer
Donna Schwandt
Yvette Wyatt

Class of 2024

Warren Bakes
Rick Clutter
Scott Fischer
Charlie Nipp
Jackie Velez
Karen Welts

Class of 2025

Dan Brown
Donna Brundage
Gina Dingman
Jeannie Logozzo
Tom Richards
Paul White

Senior Staff

Church Administrator | Bonnie Piovesan

Spiritual Momentum

You may not find the word momentum in the Bible, but you will find lots of passages referring to this concept. One such passage was important to me as a new Christian as it seemed to give me a clear path forward on how to follow Jesus. In 2 Peter 1:5-9, I had found the steps I needed to gain momentum in my new faith.

> *For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.*

Now that I had faith, I started by learning how to add goodness to my character. Much like a rock hitting a pond, my spiritual growth had begun to ripple out in the various areas of my life. 32 years later and I am still working on that list from 2 Peter. The results have been as promised that my knowledge of Jesus has grown and that I have been effective and productive in my walk with

Jesus, grateful for the grace He has so richly given me.

When we think of momentum as a church, it is easy to forget that the church is millions of individual people who are part of one body. As individuals, we do not always follow these momentum passages in scripture so we seem to get stuck, which seems to slow down the whole body. Or there are others among us who seem to fixate on certain scriptures and threaten to pull the body by force. Both of these methods forget three crucial elements of the Christian walk. One, Jesus is the head of the body. Two, Jesus is able to work with each individual and with the body as a whole at the same time. Three, Jesus is not on our timeline, we are on His. Remembering these few things helps those of us stuck to have some hope to keep going and those of us running ahead to slow down and have patience with our fellow humans. Somehow in this chaotic thing we call the Body of Christ, Jesus has found a way to gain momentum through the ages.

Here at 1st Pres, we take some time each year to gather stories of the past year and

make plans for the coming year. We take time to evaluate our mission to love God and others. We listen to our community to see if there are needs we can meet in the name of Jesus. Like stones in a pond, we are longing to see the ripples of love and care in each other and the world around us. 1st Pres is one of the rare churches that I feel understand that momentum is not a thing to be rushed, nor can it be stopped once it is started. 135 years ago, a faithful Christian threw her stone in the pond of Coeur d'Alene and started a Sunday school and, here we are, all of these years later riding the ripples of that simple act of faith.

Since I have the joy of working at the church I often have the chance to see the same kind of faithful acts being carried out in dozens of seemingly small ways. The kindness of our receptionists Emily, Naomi and now Susie who keep us organized, informed, and connected. Mikal, who helps keep our church ready for those who enter. Janet with her gift of bringing beauty and clarity to our communications. The care and love our babies and children receive from Heather, Naomi, Tracee, and Yvette who are building momentum in young lives. Tyler and our sound volunteers, who help us hear our many talented musicians and the Word of hope and love. Our worship staff Deborah, Jenny, and Kent, who help us find the words to express our thankfulness. Our Elders and Deacons, who work tirelessly to lead and care for the needs of our church. With so many ways that 1st Pres ripples, out there are not enough pages in one report to capture them all. Suffice it to say, that 1st Pres lives out this simple list in 2 Peter knowing that when we work out our faith in goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, and brotherly kindness the result will be love first.

Faithfully Yours, Bonnie

Family Ministry | Kierstie Renninger

We Are Family (Ministry)

It is with great excitement that I get to share our discernment and call to become Family Ministry at 1st Pres. To say the last few years have been full of change is an understatement; however, in 2023 we took some bold and courageous steps forward, hoping to honor our rich history and prepare to serve all generations for years to come. This momentum in Family Ministry would not have happened without great support from Pastor McLane and our Family Ministry Team, our volunteers, and of course, our wonderful families who have been eager to engage in new ways. The Family Ministry Team is a committee of caring, experienced, and invested volunteers who continue to discern relevant and meaningful ways to connect families and grow in faith, together. When we began exploring the Family Ministry concept, the call was strong to develop a ministry that walks alongside parents in the faith development of their kids and family culture. Family Ministry is a holistic call to share and experience God with our kids from birth through their college years (and beyond).

We kicked off the fall and introduced Family Ministry at our Fall Kickoff Potluck hosted by our Deacons. We released new gear as a fundraiser for camp scholarships and shared our upcoming events for the remainder

of the year with the congregation. October was awesome, with our youth holding their first clothing drive in support of our 1st Pres Neighborhood Closet. The “Closet-eers” took the youth on a tour of the closet and shared their mission to serve and support families in our community. The youth then looked through the inventory and created a list of items that would specifically bless middle-school-aged kids who visit the closet. This effort was met with great generosity from our congregation who cleared nearly three Amazon wish lists. At the end of October, we unboxed all of the donations and helped restock the closet. We also had a group of our 1st Pres families attend a parenting workshop at Whitworth, led by Meredith Miller, focused on faith formation within families. We explored the concept of weaving a web of faith with our kids and families, and she shared some of the ideas that can be found in her

book *Woven*. At the end of the month, we wrapped up with our annual cocoa and cider booth at the Community Outreach Fall Harvest Celebration. It was a sunny, but chilly, day full of fun and smiles!

November kicked off with an amazing Family Listening event, thanks to a partnership with the Whitworth Office of Church Engagement and their **Formed in Faith Project.** We discussed various topics that impact families and all of the shared thoughts and ideas have helped us to discern the best ways to meet and serve our families' unique needs in the coming year.

December was a joyful celebration of baby Jesus! Families kicked off the month at the Deacon's Christmas Party and Chili Cook-Off, where Rachel Hazard took the prize for best chili! There was fun for the whole family. Near the middle of the month, we celebrated Jesus' birth with a fun and refreshed telling of the Christmas Story in our traditional UnPageant! This year we had great instrumental music from our youth musicians, and a special accompanist, Clark Shotwell, on the piano. As always, it was a special celebration of Christ with our cute and talented kids of all ages.

This year, to celebrate our church families and enhance our faith family culture of traditions and making memories together, we embarked on the inaugural 1st Pres Christmas Cruise to the North Pole. It was a fun-filled evening on beautiful Lake Coeur d'Alene, with cookies, cocoa, and popcorn for all. Everyone made Santa's nice list, and there were smiles all around. This was a great start to what we hope becomes a fun family tradition at 1st Pres for years to come.

It is a blessing to have a great staff team that helps ensure the 1st Pres Family Ministry values come to life, and they are the consistent, caring connection for our kids each week. Heather Bell and Naomi White share joy and laughter with our youngest children in the nursery. Yvette Wyatt and Tracee Dahm share stories of who God is with our elementary kids with fun and engaging lessons. Our middle and high school kids enjoy connection and scripture reflections in Youth Group throughout the month.

That's a wrap on the not-so-small 2023 year. We anticipate with hope and excitement the big things God is calling us to in 2024! May we grow in connection with God and each other in the coming year.

Joyfully in Christ, Kierstie

Director of Worship | Jenny Shotwell

What a year 2023 has been!

It has become almost cliché to say, but the years seem to continue to pass in a blink of an eye, and this year is certainly no different. When I think of the word 'momentum' in relation to this past year I almost laugh — this year has presented a whole lot of momentum in my own life and certainly in the life of the church.

One year ago today I would not have imagined that I would be sitting here writing an annual report as Worship Director here at 1st Pres. Yes, this year has brought a lot of changes and has certainly been filled with a whirlwind of momentum! I want to share a little history of my time at First Presbyterian, but don't worry — I'll get back to 2023!

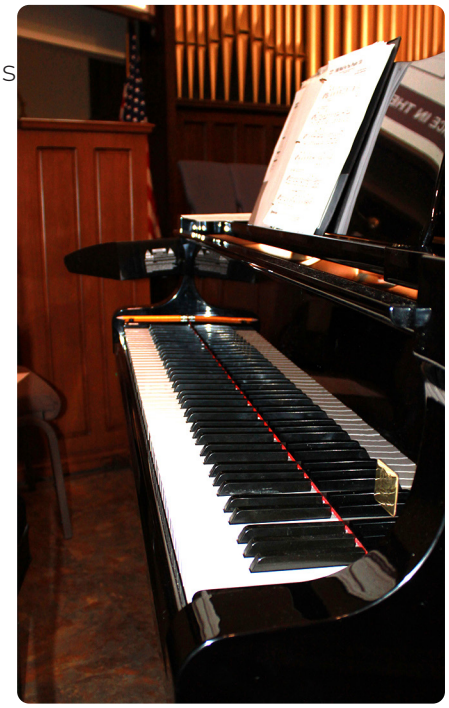
During June of 2021 Dalton and I (and Clark and Skye) decided to begin attending First Presbyterian Church to see if it was a good fit for our family. I had already booked the space for my studio recital, but I was also eager to try out this particular church having grown up Presbyterian. The most influential moment of our first Sunday was when Ray Weaver got up and played (with much gusto!) "For the Beauty of the Earth" — which just so happens to be my favorite hymn — and Kent sang in his beautiful baritone voice. It's not unlike me to cry over everything and in my mind I chuckled (while crying) because it felt like this particular hymn was specifically for welcoming us. It just felt right. Shortly after Ray and Kent set the welcoming tone, Craig Catlett stood up and played his sax in the worship band and Dalton leaned over to me and said, "That guy is really good". We were hooked.

Then, one week later, we received a letter in the mail informing us that the current pastor (Craig) would be leaving and the church would be moving into a season of transition. In some ways, you would think that after only one Sunday this news might turn us away. But we were both so drawn in by the music of that first Sunday that we couldn't help but stay. Looking back, there is no question that God knew what we needed on that first Sunday and "orchestrated" it perfectly.

This backstory is so important to share because this past year felt like the fruition — and a new beginning — of the great impact the music here at 1st Pres would have on my life.

In the beginning of 2023, life was full of new and exciting challenges heading my way, both professionally and personally. It was Skye's last few months being at home with us during the day before beginning to

spend her days at school in Kindergarten, and I was preparing for some professional opportunities that would test and inspire me. I was also actively volunteering along with others as the interim Worship Director eagerly waiting for just the right person to come along and step into the role permanently. I had no idea it would be me — and that's no exaggeration. I really had only intended to volunteer until they found someone.



But, God is funny and you know the saying "When you make plans, God laughs".

The timing was just right. Not only was it great timing, but I found myself challenged by taking a year in a volunteer position with other amazing musicians. I found support amongst new friends and really learned to enjoy creating an environment of worship for the congregation.

There's no question that the music program here at 1st Pres has been very well cultivated and loved over the years leading up to my taking over as Worship Director. Both Ray and Kent had really solidified a high level of musical worship. As Tom, Norilee and I began to fill in the obvious hole that Ray had left I think we were all grateful for the mold and culture he had left behind for us to continue and use as a guide.

I cannot emphasize enough how truly blessed we are here at the church with the level of musicianship that exists in our weekly volunteers. We are only as great as the sum of our parts and that could not be more true than within our music family here. Each week we put together two worship songs with only 40 minutes of rehearsal. That's amazing! These musicians are highly skilled, extremely knowledgeable, and they are wonderful friends that I get the privilege of creating music with each Sunday.

I continue to discover talent within our congregation. It's always

Senior Staff

[continued from page 13]

exciting when someone approaches me with a desire to participate in our weekly music. One of the challenges is certainly making sure everyone who wishes to participate has an opportunity — what a wonderful challenge to have! One of the things I'm most excited about is the possibility of including more youth in our band from time to time. When I was younger I was given opportunities to play the piano and sing for my church; even accompanying occasionally as I reached high school level. It was such a formative part of my faith and my musical journey — to be trusted and challenged — which was only enhanced by the seasoned musicians around me in a welcoming and safe environment!

Being a member of Senior Staff here has truly enriched my life. I've enjoyed this position not only professionally but also personally. Listening to my children belt out the worship songs each Sunday with such confidence (because they have been listening to them all week!), getting to play along with drums from my amazingly talented husband almost every week, learning and truly loving this worship music and exploring new and old songs, revisiting hymns and being reminded of the beauty left behind by previous generations … these are just a few of the personal fulfillments I am enjoying. Professionally, I have worked primarily for myself these past 16 years. I have truly enjoyed the relationships with the staff, the volunteers and the new challenges presented to me.

It goes without saying that the music program here at 1st Pres is strong. It's strong because of the numerous volunteers who bring their talents to the congregation each week. It's strong because of the leaders both prior and currently that shaped and set a foundation of truly wonderful music and organization. As I look forward to 2024 my prayer is that the music program here at 1st Pres will continue to be a source of true worship for the congregation and also for those of us who work to prepare for each Sunday's selections. Music is such an integral part of how we celebrate our relationship with Christ.

The momentum of this past year continues on into 2024!

Joyfully, Jenny

for the beauty of the earth
FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH
FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE SKIES
FOR THE LOVE WHICH FROM OUR BIRTH
OVER AND AROUND US LIES
FOR THE BEAUTY OF EACH HOUR
OF THE DAY
AND OF THE NIGHT
HILL & VALE & TREE & FLOWER
SUN AND MOON
AND STARS OF LIGHT
FOR THE JOY OF HUMAN LOVE
BROTHER SISTER PARENT CHILD
FRIENDS
ON EARTH AND FRIENDS ABOVE
FOR ALL THE GENTLE
THOUGHTS AND MILD
LORD OF ALL TO THEE WE RAISE
THIS OUR HYMN OF
GRATEFUL
PRAISE

Support Staff

The theme for the 2023 Giving Campaign was Momentum - ***Our heritage and our commitment to love one another keeps us moving forward.*** Our staff was asked to reflect on this for the 2023 Annual Report

Deborah Rambo-Sinn | Worship Accompanist

Having just passed my one-year anniversary with First Presbyterian, I am happy to report that I feel truly at home here. The love and support from you all have been inspiring and meaningful to both Jerry and me. "Momentum" is the theme and I can say that providing 60+ minutes of music each month, just for Preludes and Postludes, has driven me to keep up a rigorous practice schedule this past year! Upwards and onwards with a slew of new works for 2024.

Emily Rogers | Administrative Office Assistant

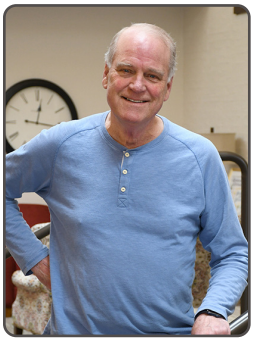
I've always worked — not because I needed to, but because I wanted to. Now that I've retired from working as office assistant at the church, I don't expect a radical change in personality: it's just redefining what that momentum will look like. Quilting? Most likely. Cooking? Well, probably more baking. Genealogy? Hm, I might leave that to my siblings. Whatever my future path, though, it will certainly continue to include worship and my friends at 1st Pres. I'm very grateful for my church family. Thanks for many happy years working for and with all of you!

Heather Bell | Nursery Care

Serving in the nursery, I have watched all kinds of momentum in our children. I have gotten to see these precious little ones develop from sweet floppy newborns to toddlers who can play and crawl and walk and talk. As their personalities develop, I am amazed at their individuality. My heart overflows with joy each Sunday that I get to work in my little corner of our church.

Janet Starkey | Communications

Momentum — always growing, always going. *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things.* Philippians 4:8



Kent Kimball | Music Director

In almost every way, our church is moving forward. Momentum is our friend. With our eyes on Jesus, our church and our members will flourish.

Mikal Johnson | Custodian / Grounds

The simple physics equation; p = m v tells us that momentum (p) is directly proportional to the object's mass (m) and velocity (v) and is a value we can control. In the realm of community, good leaders are skilled at influencing and using momentum to advance solutions and committed members work to implement solutions to their full potential.

Naomi White | Office Assistant / Receptionist

When I think of momentum, I think of those snowballs in cartoons. Usually someone is inside them and they roll down a hill, getting bigger and bigger as they go. This past year, I've been able to witness many of these "snowballs" at 1st Pres and in my own family. Sometimes, like the person stuck inside, the journey can be dizzying or overwhelming. But it sure is exciting! And I'm looking forward to seeing how far this next year will take us!

Support Staff

Stephanie Rogge | Bookkeeper

Working in the church office, I witness many acts of kindness and genuine love that the members and staff of First Presbyterian show each other and the community of Coeur d'Alene on a daily basis. God's work is apparent in the work of this church. I see it through the sharing of prayer requests or showing kindness to needy families so they can maintain their dignity through the work of the Neighborhood Closet or Family Promise. I would be remiss if I didn't point out how ministry teams such as Deacons, Outreach, Membership, Women's Association, Music and Family Ministry all work separately, and often together, to meet the needs of people around them. First Presbyterian's outpouring of love doesn't just end in our community but reaches many parts of the world as the Mission team actively supports many different mission partners who are showing God's love to people in their communities. There is no doubt that God's work, being done in this church, will continue to bless our community and beyond for many years to come.

Susie Olson | Office Assistant / Receptionist

Momentum is something everyone wants. The NFL wants momentum. The NBA wants momentum. Everyone loves momentum when things are going well. It is not so great of course if it's momentum that follows the old adage, "when it rains, it pours"! My favorite example of promoting positive momentum is through Philippians 4:8, *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things*. Surely this must be the way of building positive momentum!

Tracee Dahm | Sunday School 2nd - 5th Grades

For any movement to gain momentum, it must start with a small action.

Tyler Renninger | Sound Coordinator

Over the past year, we have worked to improve sound clarity for the congregation, both in person and with those that join us on YouTube live stream. In addition to updates in the sanctuary, we have many events using our gym and Krueger Hall that use new speakers and wireless microphones. Going forward, we intend to continue striving for a clear worship experience. We intend to carry this momentum into 2024, always striving for a clear sound experience as we worship Christ together.

Yvette Wyatt | Sunday School Pre-K through 1st Grade

With momentum in mind, because of the mighty works of those who came before us, we are blessed to have a merging point of an 'ever expanding vision' — one that broadens steadfastly and truthfully. Gratitude … gratitude … gratitude … gracious good God.

Adult Discipleship | Dan Brown

The Adult Discipleship Team envisions a First Presbyterian Church where every adult who is a member, regular attendee, or staffer is actively participating in discipleship.

Throughout 2023, the Adult Discipleship Team worked on launching our Sermon-based Small Groups. We started in the spring with a few pilot groups. With the feedback from those groups, we were able to move forward with identifying facilitators willing to lead the new groups. The facilitators were given a brief training, and sign-ups for those interested were offered. Interest in the new groups was fantastic, with about 50 people wanting to join a group!

Several small groups started meeting in November and December. So far, the reviews from the facilitators and members of the groups have been very positive. More groups are set to start in the new year.

We are excited about the direction these small groups are heading. Sign-ups for new groups are ongoing so make sure to contact Dan Brown or the church office if you are interested in joining. It is a great way to become involved in growing our church culture of Love 1st, and your own personal growth in your faith.

The Adult Discipleship Team continues to plan for additional opportunities for you to grow your faith in the coming years. Look for updates in the church newsletter.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples.
John 13 : 34-35

Building, Grounds, Safety & Security | Scott Fischer & Rick Clutter

Mission Statement:
Ensure that the facilities of the church reflect our mission that "In everything we do we will love first God, each other and our neighbors."

In 2023, technology was added to our purview, and technology improvements have included replacing the battery backup for the server, a better mic system for the piano, and improved portal amp and microphones for use around the campus. The Audio Visual (AV) volunteer team on Sunday has done an amazing job this past year in meeting the AV needs for Sunday Worship. The team has also done a lot of research in replacing the LED lights in the Sanctuary and this project will begin in January of 2024.

Minor building utility issues were dealt with this fall. The boiler's circulation pump failed and was replaced, and we had a fire alarm event triggered by a faulty smoke detector that has caused us to improve our procedures and training related to such events. The committee has also been involved in updating all church policies and procedures, from building operations to campus safety and children and youth policies and procedures.

Again, this year we hosted both a spring and a fall workday, attended by our committee members as well as numerous congregational volunteers who helped us clean gutters, downspouts, and roof drains, clean out flowerbeds, rake leaves, and other needed activities. We continue to help Mikal as needed with snow removal and any building maintenance items around the church.

Bruce Wallies and Allen Miller continue to do more than their share of the work, constructing a new partition wall in the Sanctuary basement so we can safely store ladders and other materials out of the way of the AA group, making and installing and mounting shelves for the upstairs office air conditioners, and hanging curtains in the upstairs classrooms for better privacy for Family Promise guests. The team continued to support the Love 1st Neighborhood closet with various needs that helped improve the closet and make it more welcoming and functional. The team also constructed storage cabinets for Sunday School classrooms, and various other maintenance tasks that came up during the year.

Members: Scott Fischer (Co-Chairman), Rick Clutter (Co-Chairman), Allen Miller, Jerry Gee, Bruce Wallies, John McRae, Bonnie Piovesan (Church Administrator), Mikal Johnson (Church Custodian), Tyler Renninger (Church Sound Coordinator)

Ministry Teams

Community Outreach | Donna Brundage

"To enhance our faith through understanding and reaching out to our neighbors with Love First" – Kay Mills

It has been an exciting year of experiences, growth, and learning for the Community Outreach Committee. Under the leadership of a new chair, and with the addition of several new members, we started with the ambitious goal of raising awareness of the issues facing our community members. We offered a series of events where people could tell their stories (Coffeehouse Conversations) and opportunities for our congregation to participate in tailored activities. The hope was that the broader community could experience the acceptance and love of 1st Pres, and 1st Pres members could gain an understanding of the people behind the labels.

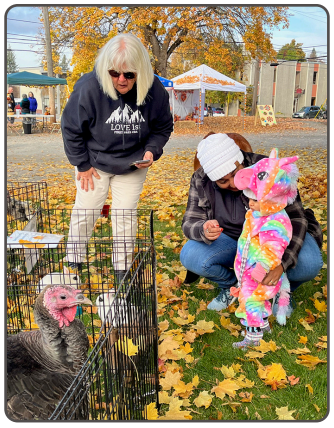
Recap of 2023:

- The year started with a successful food drive for the Coeur d'Alene Food Bank.
- In May we celebrated Mental Health Awareness month by having our first "Coffeehouse Conversation", featuring a presentation by the Executive Director of NAMI Idaho (National Alliance for Mental Illness) from Boise, followed by a panel discussion by local leaders and people with lived experiences.

- We held a Poverty Simulation in the gym, where community members and 1st Pres congregants participated in an eye-opening event that enabled them to experience what it is like to live on the edge of homelessness.
- In July, we set up a wheelchair obstacle course and had presentations by local disability rights advocates, including some bound to wheelchairs themselves. This marked our Second Coffeehouse Conversation.
- In August we had several local speakers that have experienced homelessness and have been able to work their way out with God's grace and community support. This Coffeehouse Conversation highlighted a pastor from Cataldo who lived as a homeless person on two separate occasions in Reno.

- In September, 1st Pres manned a table at the Suicide Prevention Walk, and had a team participate in the walk. This was followed by the September Coffeehouse Conversation, which featured Suicide Prevention training (QPR).

- In October, we organized the 2nd Annual Fall Harvest Celebration — featuring children's activities, live music, hot cider/ chocolate, and the big hit of the day — a rescued animal petting zoo!



- During November, we held a donation drive to support the Coeur d'Alene Backpack Program, which distributes close to 600 weekly bags of food to supplement the nutritional needs of our community's children. For some of these children, this food may be the only daytime meal they have access to on weekends and during the holidays.

- December featured our committee's holiday gift to the congregation. A "Homegrown Christmas" afternoon concert featured some of our talented musicians and singers that you all love from our worship services and homemade Christmas cookies!

Neighborhood Closet

Gina Dingman / Connie Boni, Co-Chairs

The mission of the Love 1st Neighborhood Ministry — 1st Pres Neighborhood Closet is to build relationships with families in our community by creating and maintaining a Closet at First Presbyterian Church serving children from homeless and low-income, at-risk families. We strive to consistently have new clothing, footwear, and outerwear that is current and in fashion for today's youth.

1stPresDowntown Neighborhood Closet
We've got you covered.

The Closet has been able to serve 83 Families by appointment through our referral system. These families have brought 160 children through our doors who have been blessed with clothing, footwear, outerwear, and personal hygiene and laundry products.

Ministry Teams

[continued from page 23]

This Ministry has seen involvement from our entire church community. Our Sunday School children toured the Closet on Aug. 27 to see what types of clothing The Noisy Offering would provide. These children collected the Noisy Offering, and our congregation generously gave $1,402.53. The Middle and High School Youth toured the Closet at the end of September and initiated a clothing drive on Amazon during the month of October to benefit the closet.

The year 2023 has been such a great blessing to our church and this Ministry. Together we have learned so much about what it means to truly serve others with respect and dignity "by embracing a new way to serve those in need."

Thank you to our pastoral leadership for providing great guidance, to our Session, our Deacons, our congregation, and our community. You are the reason we can continue to serve our community by offering a Hand-up instead of a Handout. You are the ones who are building relationships with our community and living the Love 1st Mission of our Church.

Ecumenical Kitchen

Karen Sines, Chair

The Ecumenical Food Kitchen has been serving a free lunch meal at First Presbyterian Church for 40 years. Currently, nine churches of various denominations, including First Presbyterian Church, provide and serve these meals to our hungry guests. While our number of guests were low during and after Covid, we are starting to serve more.

We are very grateful for the exceptional generosity of First Presbyterian Church in providing the space, janitorial services, and both administrative and congregational support. We recently joined the Community Outreach Committee and continue to receive their support and fellowship.

We have lots of new ideas and events planned for 2024, so make sure you watch for announcements, slides, and our church newsletter!

Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.

John 7:24

Contemplative Service | Sue Lauer

With another year under our belts, the Contemplative Service continues to develop and become an integral part of our Love First ministry. Our goals remain: to provide a worship service fostering an intimate environment of contemplation, deep spiritual challenge, and creativity within the framework of substantive theology and broadly-sourced content. We desire to allow people to engage with God in an up-close way, exercising and exploring their faith within the assurance and safety of God's love, or perhaps imagining whether faith in God is something they are willing to consider for the first time. Experiencing traditional elements like ringing the church bell, lighting the Christ Candle, and reciting the Lord's Prayer, alongside surprising elements of poetry (both "sacred" and "secular"), responsive prayer, and minutes of silence for prayer/meditation, make this an hour of peace, growth, and spiritual refreshment for attendees.

While our numbers remain steady, fluctuating depending on the week, we have seen a considerable increase in new faces and an impressively wide age spread in attendees. Because of the nature of the service, we expect this group to remain "petite", but the feedback we receive about the content and impact of the service, as well as the need it fills, is positive and encouraging. We continue to trust God to bring to the service the folks that need to be there, in small or large numbers. It's God's job!

We are thankful that each week Pastor McLane welcomes, preaches, and offers weekly communion; lay Worship Leaders lead the responsive prayer portion of thanksgiving, confession, and intercession; our Director of Worship, Jenny Shotwell, and other music volunteers lead music; members of the Contemplative Service leadership team set up and tear down visual elements that help create a contemplative setting in the sanctuary, and Deacons prepare our communion elements.

Childcare is consistently available for the service, and the 10:30 AM group enjoys the opportunity for donuts, coffee, and fellowship both before AND after the service! Woohoo!

If you haven't had the opportunity to attend the 10:30 service, we encourage you to join us to get a good feel for the differences and similarities between the first and second service. We have members that attend BOTH services for the beautiful diverse ways each service expresses Love 1st.

Ministry Teams

Deacons | Cheryl Broadway & Susan Yarbrough / Co-Chairs

The mission of the 1st Pres Deacons is to identify and meet the needs of our church and community members in a compassionate, loving manner, and we focused on just that in 2023.

The start of 2023 found the Deacons looking at how to better serve our church family and community by reviewing some things we have done in the past along with looking at new ways to demonstrate our "Love 1st" commitment through future service projects.

We continued to minister to members through our various ongoing programs such as:

- Hospital or physical rehabilitation facility visitations
- Spiritual support for those no longer able to attend church in person for various reasons.
- Sending cards of prayer, encouragement, and kindness to those needing support during times of hardship, loss, or illness
- Facilitating communion and helping with ushering and greeting duties

The Deacons Fund continued to be used for monthly support to LOVE Inc. (Love In the Name of Christ) and St. Vincent de Paul and their community resource programs in connection to local churches.

Deacons kicked off the "Care Campaign" inviting the congregation to reach out to us, either through the iPray list, calling the church office, or writing on the back of the Connection cards when they know of a need within our church family.

As needs within our community have grown so too has the need for more space within the 1st Pres Neighborhood Closet. To help, Deacons offered to move to another area within the church's downstairs in support of the Closet's growth, which was done in early 2023.

To bring the whole congregation together for fun, festive occasions, the Deacons organized and hosted two potluck events. In September, we held the Fall Kick-Off Potluck where we all enjoyed, not just each other's company, but tasty hamburgers, hotdogs, and wonderful dishes shared on the overflowing potluck tables.

In early December, we kicked off the holiday season with the Christmas Party and Chili Cook-Off. Not only was this a church-wide event, but we were also blessed to host eight families invited through Family Promise, LOVE Inc., and the Neighborhood Closet. The festivities included our very own Pastor McLane as Santa (Well done, Pastor, and the costume fit perfectly!), fun children's activities (ornament making, cookie decorating, and family photos with Santa) along with a gift for each child. The

families we hosted received a gift certificate to shop at Fred Meyer. With over 100 people in attendance, the event was a success and a joy to behold. Thanks to our congregation for making the evening special for the hosted families!

We held elections for Secretary and Treasurer in November 2022 and Co-chairs in June 2023. Ellen Taylor served as Secretary, Dan Lauer and Pat Dingman shared duties as Treasurer, and Susie Yarborough and Cheryl Broadway served as Co-chairs.

Thank you to the staff, volunteers and congregation for your continued generosity and support of the Deacons allowing us to care for and connect with our church and community. We look forward to sharing more “Love 1st” in 2024.

Deacons

The ministry of a Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. As part of our leadership team, these individuals are elected by the congregation, serving in specific ways. Together, Elders and Deacons use their gifts to equip the church for the work of ministry for building-up the body of Christ.

Class of 2023

Connie Boni
Cheryl Broadway
Pat Dingman
Ronda Greer
Ellen Taylor
Susan Yarbrough

Class of 2024

Susie Fischer
Dan Lauer

Class of 2025

Paula Anderson
Carol Harrison-Romerdahl
Linda Jones
Hendrik Lesterhuis
Gil Walker

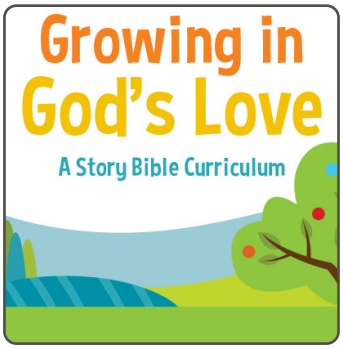
Family Ministry | Jeannie Logozzo & Carolyn Keefer / Chairs

Children

Jeannie Logozzo, Chair

What a year of tremendous growth and change! Our Search Team continued their search for a permanent Director of the Children and Family Ministry with Becky Clegg, representing HR, serving right alongside us. We are eternally grateful to have had Becky's expertise and experience guiding us every step of the way. We had many applicants but continued searching for the "right fit" for this most important position. !

Meanwhile, with Pastor McLane's encouragement, our Children and Family (C & F) team decided to adopt a new Sunday School curriculum entitled "Growing in God's Love". As is often the case, we determined



it was necessary to condense the weekly lesson plans so they could be taught within a 40-minute period of time. This would also provide continuity in lesson content and structure between the Pre-K through 1st and 2nd through 5th grade classrooms As is typical of the C & F team, there were a number of retired school teachers willing to take this on. A Curriculum Team was formed, a lesson framework developed, and a procedure for condensing, sharing, editing, and finalizing each unit of study was created. The new curriculum was introduced in June and has since been met with eagerness among the children and support from their parents. This team will continue their work until they have completed three years of units.

A decision was made to add Camp Spalding as a summer camp option for families. The "Flower Basket" and "Send a Kid to Camp" fundraisers for camp scholarships were both great successes. Thank you to our wonderful 1st Pres congregants for their generosity!

The team voiced a desire to hire a Pre-K through 1st grade Sunday School teacher, with an attempt to create consistency in leadership. What a blessing to have Yvette Wyatt take on this role beginning in May! She is truly a blessing to our children!

In June, we said goodbye to Kyler O'Connor who graciously stepped in to serve as Interim Director of Children and Family. We are grateful for her service to our children!

In July, discussions began regarding combining our children and youth ministries. Pastor McLane shared the idea of forming a larger ministry, named "Family Ministry", which would involve ministering to our church families as well as their children. Kierstie Renninger, Director of Youth, having done considerable research in this area, was eager to share her vision and desire to

lead such a ministry. After discussions of the possibilities, followed by prayer and careful discernment, both the children and youth ministries were supportive and most anxious to move forward with this concept. The newly named "Family Ministry" was formed with Kierstie leading the way as our Director beginning September 1.

Last, but certainly not least, in August HR and Session approved the hiring of a 2nd-5th Sunday School teacher — once again to embrace leadership consistency and lesson continuity among grade levels. We are so fortunate to have Tracee Dahm accept this position. She is definitely another blessing for our children!

Youth

Carolyn Keefer, Chair

It's been a busy and exciting year for our Youth and Family Team under the wonderful leadership of Kierstie Renninger. The volunteer Youth Team, with the support of Pastor McLane, has provided great support and helped to implement some wonderful learning as well as social activities. As you will see below, it has been a busy and productive year.

January & February – We began our Middle School Sunday School at the 9:30 hour discussing Pastor McLane's sermons as our curriculum. Our High School Youth began meeting at 11:30 on Sundays for pizza, support, and sermon discussions.

March – We joined the CDA Backpack Program for a service project, packing 250 lunch backpacks to be distributed to the school children to provide lunches during their spring break.

April – Care packages were sent to five of our former youth members who are now in college. They were well-received as an encouragement during finals' week.

May — We worked along with the Children's Team for our Flower Basket Sale as well as our "Send a Kid to Camp" fundraisers. Thank you for your generous support of these fundraisers! Our three graduating high school seniors also enjoyed a day-long retreat at the lake home of Hannigan-Luther's with Pastor McLane and Kierstie.

June – Our three graduating seniors participated in our worship on June 4th, which was a wonderful testament to their faith and goals ahead. We also had 18 youth who had a great day of fun at Farragut experiencing the "Tree-to-Tree" adventure.

July – Many of our families and youth came together for Family Night at the Indians' baseball game in Spokane.

Ministry Teams

August – We were treated to a great BBQ and movie night at the Towery's lovely home. We were invited for a day of fun at the lake home of the Richards, however, the smoky air caused us to cancel. We also had several youth attend summer camp, as well as four families who attended Family Camp at Spalding.

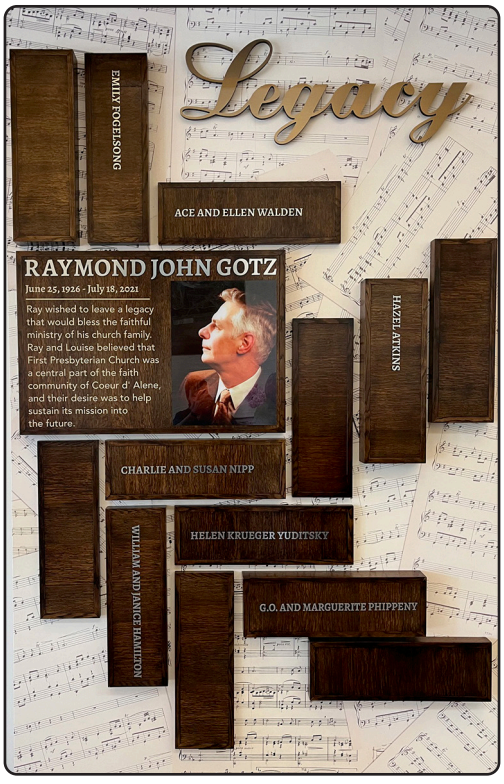
September – After several months of discussion and prayer with Pastor McLane, the Children and Family Team, our committee, and Session were excited to announce the combining of our children and youth to now become "Family Ministry". Our Youth Director, Kierstie Renninger, after researching this vision, is pleased to lead this new ministry as the director. We are all very excited as our Family Ministry grows in 2024. If you would like to join this team, please feel free to contact Kierstie or myself as we work together in this important ministry.

Finance & Stewardship | Jon Hippler

Your Finance Committee had a very busy and productive 2023. Here are the highlights:

- For the year ending 12/31/23, the Church had an operating surplus of $6,075 compared to a budgeted loss for the year of ($4,877). It should also be noted these results were after purchasing new carpet for the basement and new sanctuary lights in December, totaling $25,800, as well as an additional amount paid out in Mission expense of $10,750 (to bring the yearly total to 10% of gifts received). The primary driver of these great results was that total giving exceeded our budget by about $46,000!

- Finance developed a plan for the management and utilization of the Ray Gotz Estate gift received in the amount of $721,000. Session approved the plan which accomplished the following: (a) paying off the long-term debt of the 501 building; (b) creating a special Missions fund, (c) creating a special fund for future major capital expenditures, and (d) setting up a discretionary fund that Session can use at their direction. However, use of this fund is restricted on an annual basis to no more than the investment earnings of the account plus 5% of principal.



- A plan was developed for the investment of these funds, which through year-end produced about $5,400 in earnings that were not budgeted in 2023.

- Finance and Stewardship worked to develop a Legacy Giving program which included the creation of our new Legacy Giving Wall in Krueger Hall.

- While still in progress, Finance is working on setting up a church Endowment Fund. The details are still in development, but the goal would be to create an endowment that can grow with future gifts to the point the earnings from the account would be able to be a major contributor to church operations and missions.

In conclusion, our church emerged from 2023 in a very strong financial position with an operating surplus, no debt, and substantial liquidity and reserve cash positions.

Ministry Teams

Human Resources | Rob Buckham

The Human Resources Team had another very productive year, but none of this would have been possible without the cooperation and support offered by our wonderful Church Staff. We appreciate them so much. During the year we completed a lot of our "normal" tasks such as ensuring annual employee performance reviews were completed, reviewing salaries & benefits, submitting our budget proposal to Session, monitoring staff vacations and leaves, revising job descriptions as needed, and recruiting for open staff positions.

During the time we were led by our interim pastor, Neal Nybo, the team focused on keeping the status quo until our new pastor was called. In the second half of 2022, 1st Pres was blessed by the introduction of Pastor McLane. The HR Team assisted him in the transition. After the first half of last year, Pastor McLane reached out to us with his vision for our church. He had recognized several opportunities for 1st Pres going forward and engaged HR in these discussions. In this report, we have highlighted some of the actions taken during 2023.

Looking to increase continuity in the program and address a shortage of Sunday School volunteers, HR and Session approved the hiring of two additional part-time staff to serve as weekly Sunday School teachers. The positions were posted and we were pleased to hire Yvette Wyatt as our Pre-K through 1st grade teacher and Tracee Dahm as our 2nd through 5th grade teacher.

In the past, 1st Pres has designated its children's program by — Nursery (Ages 0-3), Children and Family Ministry (Pre-K to 5th grade), and Youth and Family Ministry (6th grade-high school). After considerable discussion and discernment among all those involved in the program, it was recommended that 1st Pres combine these ministries and their families to create a larger ministry, entitled Family Ministry. The HR Committee supported this recommendation and was asked to assist in writing the job description for the new position. 1st Pres was blessed to hire Kierstie Renninger, the part-time Director of Youth and Family Ministry, to serve full-time as the new Director of Family Ministry! For more information about the exciting Family Ministry program, please read the Family Ministry section of this Annual Report.

Technology was another area identified for additional emphasis. HR included the vision in the rewrite of a part-time Technology position. After revising the job description, it was posted internally and on the web. HR was also included in the screening and selection process. Tyler Renninger was selected to fill this part-time position and he is already making significant contributions. He has been a great addition to the team.

Based on his experience, Pastor McLane recommended that we could improve the

worship experience if one person were to be responsible for coordinating the various groups and individuals involved in presenting music worship. HR prepared the job description for this part-time position, posted it, and coordinated the selection process. Jenny Shotwell was selected from several candidates and is currently filling this need. We all appreciate her gifts and are blessed by her willingness to share them with us.

Two other key staff positions opened during the year. First was the departure of Brandie as our custodian and groundskeeper. A valuable member of the staff, he was offered a position close to his home in Silver Valley, making the decision to accept it easy. Since then we have recruited Mikal to fill the position and we feel truly blessed to have found someone as outstanding as him in just a short time. The other position that was filled occurred when our beloved Emily expressed her desire to retire. We are very excited for her and thankful to have enjoyed her service for so many years. Another search and another blessing in the recent hire of Susie Olson. God has provided for us once again. Thanks be to Him!

As we look to 2024, we see several more challenges for the HR Team. It was with considerable regret that we accepted the resignation of Kent Kimball as Choir Director. We wish him only the best and thank him for his dedicated service to 1st Pres. He will be missed. We are in the initial stages of developing a replacement strategy for this very important position.

A final note on two efforts that were initiated in 2023 and will be completed in early 2024: First was a revision to the Personnel Practices and Policies Manual. Several opportunities for improvement and clarification of our policies were identified and will be presented to Session in the first quarter. The second effort addresses the issue of safety for our young disciples while attending church activities. Bonnie and Kierstie have been diligently working on this project and asked for our assistance. The proposal should be ready for Session's review in the next several months.

In closing, it has been a busy but successful year for the Team. Unfortunately, at the end of 2023, I had a change in my work schedule and had to request help from the committee to fill in during my absence. They are a cohesive group and work very well together. Many thanks to the entire team for filling in. A new Team Leader from Session will be joining the team next year. Having experienced the total cooperation and teamwork displayed by the HR Team, you can be assured that the mission of the team will be achieved in the coming year.

Members: Warren Bakes, Rob Buckham, Becky Clegg, Roger Grigg, Bob Guenther, Karen Huber, Paula Lyon, Steve Peterson, Karen Welts, and Pastor McLane (ex-officio/ Head of Staff).

Missions | Matt Broadway

In 2023, were blessed with our congregation's support for our ongoing efforts to show God's Love and Mercy through relationships we have built with an impactful group of Mission Partners who are doing amazing work every day to help a wide variety of people, with a wide variety of needs in a wide geographical footprint. Your support is truly touching an uncountable number of people!

It would be difficult to detail all the ways your generous donations bless people with the love of Christ, but here is a partial list of the missional work we have supported through our partnerships in 2023:

1) Funding our local food bank offering food to those in need in our community.

2) Supporting hospitality workers with housing, training and emergency expenses to keep them from becoming financially unstable, and potentially homeless through our affiliation with CDAIDE.

3) Partnering with Family Promise through a network of churches (including our own) that act as hosts to these families to ensure their ability to help those in need with a safe place to stay and food to eat when families find themselves temporarily unhoused and unable to get on their feet.

4) Helping kids through Juvenile Justice Outreach to find stability through being introduced to Jesus and given mentors who will walk with them during challenging times in their lives and with some very difficult family dynamics.

5) Equipping a large network of Christians with Bless China International through a pastoral training program for Chinese national pastors and their church planting activities. Many of these volunteers face unbelievable hardships and persecution for their walk of faith.

6) Supporting a Christian-based school in Eswatini, Africa, Kukhany O'Shuka, even during the backdrop of a prior civil war. This school offers a relatively safe and stable place to live while teaching kids who otherwise might not have the opportunity.

7) The pleasure of helping Pastor Paul Assignon in Togo, Africa create yet another "church plant" and baptism of new Christians! We also helped with funds for the construction of one of his many new churches.

8) Empowering at-risk kids in Bolivia through "Ninos Con Valor", which also focuses on kids whom their society may disregard/diminish due to physical or mental disabilities, and helping with family reconciliation.

9) Helping to equip and empower women who would like to go into ministry and missions with tools, training, and contacts to

be effective domestically and internationally through our affiliation with Women's Development Track.

10) Providing meals to seniors in our community who lack resources to have regular nutritious meals through "Dining with Dignity" at Orchard Ridge Senior Living, and also offering low-cost housing or assisted living to those with modest means.

11) Supporting our local warming center via St. Vincent de Paul that offers a warm place for unhoused neighbors to escape the elements when the outside temperatures drop to dangerous levels.

12) Helping women escape a cycle of abuse and/or substance abuse and regain their dignity and earn their right to be reunited with their children as they once again become contributing members of society via Union Gospel Mission (UGM). Many of these women go straight to UGM from prison and find the power of Christ to transform them. We also provided UGM with a new commercial washer and dryer, through a generous individual member's specific mission donation (thank you!).

13) We provided a grant to Kukhany O'Shuka, our school in Africa, to install a new solar power system to reduce their power costs and improve reliability.

14) Donated to the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest for local missional work through other affiliated churches in our Synod.

15) In addition to our partnerships, we have supported several other missions on a one-time basis that are doing amazing work including A.R.M.S, Second Chance Ministries, Children's Village, and our own Turkey Fund for grocery certificates for those in need.

The list is substantial, and the work is amazingly important and impactful. Importantly, we offer volunteers as well as donations for some of our mission partners.

There were a few difficult decisions to be made this year. Unfortunately, we determined that we could no longer support the Staff of Hope in Africa and are actively discerning a new partnership to replace them.

In February, we hosted a "Fair Trade Expo and Missions Celebration" in Krueger Hall. If you're not familiar, we invite all our mission partners (plus a Fair Trade partner and another local mission or two) to join us on a Sunday to set up a table in Krueger Hall where they can have a donut and meet our congregation between church services.

Thanks to the vision and generosity of Ray Gotz and his family, the church was blessed with a legacy bequest gift. The Missions Committee received a portion and created a

Ministry Teams

[continued from page 35]

"Gotz Memorial Grant Program" for mission work. Four grants were awarded in 2023 from applications received. Most applications were heartfelt and offered high-impact opportunities.

Looking forward to 2024, we are building momentum to create an outbound international mission trip. The location and particulars are still being determined. We're hoping that folks with a calling to serve will join us to help with how to make this happen. It's not where we go, it's what we can do for others when we go. If God is calling you to do more internationally, we would welcome you to become part of the group to formulate this vision!

It has been my privilege to serve as the Missions Committee chairperson this year along with a dedicated group of committee members who have the heart to serve and a vision of how to help in our broken world. Hope is renewed every day.

Nominating | Yvette Wyatt

Book of Order (G - Form of Government) | G-2.0401 Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons

Ruling elders and deacons are men and women elected by the congregation from among its members. The nomination and election of ruling elders and deacons shall express the rich diversity of the congregation's membership and shall guarantee participation and inclusiveness (F-1.0401). Ruling elders and deacons shall be nominated by a committee elected by the congregation, drawn from the representative of its membership.

The 2023 Nominating Committee extends our sincere gratitude to everyone invited to consider a nomination for either the Board of Deacons or as Ruling Elders for Session. Your prayerful discernment to either accept or decline a nomination, is earnestly respected and appreciated.

One of the goals of our team is to meet and know more individuals across the

congregation. Interestingly, it was those folks who shared why they needed to decline a nomination at this time, who we felt we learned a bit more about. We invite and look forward to their participation in the future when they can afford the time investment to accept a nomination.

Serving on the Nominating Team is both exciting and challenging. It is a joy to invite folks to use their gifts in leadership service, and it is rewarding when they can say 'YES'. Yet, there are valid reasons for declinations and it can be challenging to complete the nomination slate every November.

The most common roadblock: everyone already has their hands, feet, and hearts into one or more ministries. The fact that it is difficult to identify anyone, member or congregant, who is not already engaged in one or more leadership roles creates a mixed blessing. While such involvement is unquestionably a tremendous benefit for our church family, it can be difficult to envision stepping into a new or additional leadership role.

Furthermore, serving on our governing boards is bound by the requirement of membership. There are many names of wonderfully gifted and servant-hearted folks brought forward within our team and by others, who have not yet felt called to step into membership, thereby are ineligible to be nominated to these roles. Yet even here, the light begins to beam brighter as the last two membership classes saw both long-time congregants and fairly new attenders commit to membership.

Finally, though it is a goal of our team, we just don't know everyone and what incredible gifts they are being called to use in the effort of kingdom building. Our prayer is that, as disciples of Jesus Christ, we continue to strive to listen and better respond to those seeking to contribute their talents and connect within a loving church family.

Dedicated to the mission of Love First by offering invitations to serve,

Members: Marcy Clutter, Emily Rogers, Bev Turner, Karen Yates, Suzy Jolley, Susie Fischer. Jackie Velez, Yvette Wyatt and McLane Stone (Pastor-ex officio)

Ministry Teams

Presbyterian Women | Susan Yarbrough

We are a community of more the 200,000 women who participate in Presbyterian Women (PW) and align our ministry and hearts around a shared purpose: to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church. Nurturing our faith through prayer and Bible study is the first point of our purpose. We affirm the position that scripture is the word of God, guiding and inspiring us, individually and collectively. Put in another way, nurturing our faith is the key to discerning how God, through the Holy Spirit, would like us to act and to be in this world. We are a community of believers. In addition to participating in the World Day of Prayer and Fellowship of the Least Coin, we gather monthly in the fall, winter, and spring for programs that will bring us together.

A few of these programs include our Mother's Day Tea, Christmas Tea, and Quilt Show — plus a variety of speakers.

Our Women's Circles are composed of small groups of women who meet monthly for Bible study, mission outreach, and to foster friendships within the church. We try to study the same "Horizon Study" each year. Our members share their joys and concerns at each meeting which helps us to build stronger personal connections and support for each other.

Welcome / Membership | Donna Schwandt

New Directory: The Welcome/Membership Team worked on publishing an updated church directory in 2023. Janet Starkey, Director of Communications, was an integral part of getting the directory published by updating our database and taking many updated pictures. We encourage everyone to get a picture taken as we update the directory in the future.

Membership Classes: The team hosted membership classes with a continental breakfast and folders of information for the participants in April and November. Pastor McLane led the classes and answered many great questions about our church and Presbyterian beliefs. This year we have added 33 new members!

Ushers and Greeters: The committee organizes teams of ushers that serve each Sunday. Many thanks to the team leaders who organize and lead the usher teams. The team leaders are Bruce Wallies, 1st Sunday; Ellen Taylor, 2nd Sunday; Bev Turner, 3rd Sunday; Marie Edinger, 4th Sunday and the Deacons on the 5th Sunday. A special thanks to all who serve as ushers.

Welcome Desk: The Welcome/Membership Team also staffs the Welcome Desk each Sunday to answer questions, help with name tags, and provide a small gift for first-time visitors. Many thanks to Carol Mitchell, Darlene Nason, Gina Dingman, Dennis and Sherry White, Donna Schwandt, and Donna Brundage. Thank you to the congregation for wearing those name tags each week. It really helps us all.

Updating the Membership Rolls: Our church membership rolls had not been updated in many years. This year the team made an effort to call, email, text, or contact by letter members whom we had not seen in several years. By doing this, we made our membership rolls more reflective of our actual active membership. A total of 89 people were moved to a non-member status. Many of them have moved away or found another church home.

Connection Cards and New Pencils: The team appreciates the efforts of the Friday morning pickleball group who each week makes sure we have Connection cards in the pews and giving envelopes. These little details make a big difference. The team also purchased small pencils with erasers for the pew racks.

Members: Katie Sayler, Bev Turner, Jackie Velez, Ellen Taylor, Dennis White, Sherry White, John Schwandt, Janet Starkey

Special Highlights

CDAIDE | Jason Nye

2023 has gone by in a blur! It feels like I was putting together something for last year's annual update just last month! CDAIDE has been so blessed this year to continue our mission of supporting local hospitality workers through meeting their immediate needs, connecting them with resources for long-term self-sufficiency, and ensuring they feel valued, respected, and loved.

This year we made a renewed effort to focus on crisis versus chronic situations. It is important that we make sure that the funds we are entrusted with are used in situations where we are sure they will make a difference. And we have seen so many lives blessed this year! CDAIDE helped 271 people, paying over $170,000 in financial aid to make sure our neighbors working in the hospitality industry had housing, transportation, utilities, and/or medical/dental support. 72% of those we supported had dependents living at home. The average age of the people we helped was 40 years old.

We saw some staff changes this year with Tammy Sandoval and Brenda Wahner leaving, but we are super excited to now have Candice Randall on the team as our new Care Counselor. If you happen to see Candice, Cindy, or me in the halls, please don't hesitate to say hi!

We are so grateful for the continued relationship we have with First Presbyterian Church and its members! There is a wonderful spirit in your church building and we feel privileged to share this space. Thank you for your kindness, support, and love. We wish you each a wonderful 2024 filled with hope, love, and prosperity.

Sincerely,

Jason Nye | CDAIDE, Executive Director

Family Promise | Teri & Bill Burch, Judy Flieger, Ann Smart

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have good works?" James 2:14

Founded in Summit, New Jersey in 1988, Family Promise is the leading national nonprofit family addressing homelessness. The organization tackles the range of issues that can lead to homelessness. From prevention services to emergency shelter and housing to post-program stabilization, Family Promise ensures families develop vital skills, have access to critical resources, and receive ongoing support to achieve lasting

independence. The organization has served more than one million individuals since its founding.

Family Promise of North Idaho is one of approximately 200 affiliates nationwide. The staff is made up of the Executive Director, Family Service Coordinator, Office Manager, Shelter Manager, and Administrative Assistant.

At 1st Pres we have four coordinators who organize everything and serve during the five weeks we host each year. Judy Flieger makes sure there are people to host dinners and people to spend the night. Ann Smart organizes volunteers to set up the rooms, do laundry, and take down the rooms. Teri Burch organizes people to make dinners with an eye toward special dietary considerations. Bill Burch uses the 1st Pres coordinator's account to purchase breakfast, lunch, and any special dietary items for the guests. We have donors who give faithfully to the 1st Pres coordinator's account.

A quick snapshot of those we served this year:

January — Two families. 1) Mom, dad, daughter, and new baby. 2) Pregnant mom and son.

March — Three families. 1) Returning Mom, dad, daughter and now 6-month-old baby. 2) Returning pregnant mom and son whose birthday we celebrated by purchasing him a cake/ present. 3) New Mom, dad, and three children.

May — Same three families we had in March. 1) The family of four found housing mid-week and graduated. 2) Pregnant mom and son. 3) Mom, dad, and three children.

September — One family only. 1) Mom, dad, and new baby. Pregnant mom with son and family of four found housing and graduated from the program.

November — Our last assigned family found housing and graduated, so we welcomed a new family of three. 1) Mom and two daughters.

This last year we were blessed to be able to serve these families who were so grateful to be part of the program! Thanks to our faithful donors, coordinators, and volunteers, our efforts have been successful. If this program touches your heart, we would love to have you join in this expression of Love 1st!

Approved Budget
2024

OPERATING INCOME			
OFFERING INCOME	$	690,000.00	
OTHER INCOME	$	114,175.00	**#1, 2**
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	**$**	**804,175.00**	
OPERATING EXPENSES			
ADMINISTRATION	$	65,724.00	
EMPLOYER PAYROLL TAXES	$	30,827.00	
FACILITIES	$	93,335.00	
HEAD OF STAFF/CALLED PASTOR	$	147,633.00	
MINISTRY TEAMS	$	126,675.00	**#2**
PROGRAM STAFF	$	104,393.00	
SUPPORT STAFF	$	235,364.00	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	**$**	**803,951.00**	
PROJECTED NET OPERATING INCOME 2024	**$**	**224.00**	
501 BLDG INCOME/EXPENSES			
501 BLDG INCOME	**$**	**62,520.20**	
501 BLDG EXPENSES	**$**	**31,495.00**	
PROJECTED NET 501 BLDG INCOME	**$**	**31,025.20**	**#3**
PROJECTED NET OPERATING AND 501 BLDG INCOME	**$**	**31,249.20**	

SESSION APPROVED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2024

Maintenance & Repairs			
Phase 1 Stained Glass Window Covers	$	15,000.00	
Technology			
Computers for Vmix, Janet, Reception	$	6,500.00	
Fireside AV Needs	$	3,500.00	
	$	**25,000.00**	**#3**

Notes

1 Other Income includes projected interest from bank accounts and mutual funds $2850, 7 mth CD $4600 to be used for capital improvements, 9 mth CD $1750 for Missions, and 13 mth CD $10,800 to be used per Session's discretion.

#2 Income from Gotz Estate Funds to pay for 2nd yr Missions Grants.

#3 Capital Improvements will be paid for from withdrawal of funds in the Capital Improvements account. This account will be increased in 2024 from interest earnings and addition of earnings provided by the 501 Bldg.

Balance Sheet

Previous Year Comparison

	Dec 2023	Dec 2022	$ Change	% Change
CURRENT ASSETS				
501 BUILDING BANK ACCOUNTS	$ 9,907.65	$ 10,176.41	$ (268.76)	(3%)
DESIGNATED FUND BANKING ACCTS	$ 38,707.42	$ 479,713.77	$ (441,006.35)	(92%)
DESIGNATED INVESTMENT ACCTS	$ 197,926.03	$ 39,739.95	$ 158,186.08	398%
GENERAL FUND BANKING ACCOUNTS	$ 77,029.19	$ 33,047.55	$ 43,981.64	133%
NON-DESIGNATED INVESTMENT ACCTS	$ 349,250.09	$ 95,240.38	$ 254,009.71	267%
Total CURRENT ASSETS	$ 672,820.38	$ 657,918.06	$ 14,902.32	2%
FIXED ASSETS				
501 LAKESIDE PROPERTY	$ 517,742.70	$ 517,742.70	$ -	0%
PROPERTIES	$ 2,678,964.50	$ 2,678,964.50	$ -	0%
Total FIXED ASSETS	$ 3,196,707.20	$ 3,196,707.20	$ -	0%
OTHER ASSETS				
NEW COVENANT MUTUAL FUNDS	$ 434,678.51	$ 381,644.14	$ 53,034.37	14%
PRESBYTERY FOUNDATION	$ 35,016.83	$ 35,016.83	$ -	0%
Total OTHER ASSETS	$ 469,695.34	$ 416,660.97	$ 53,034.37	13%
TOTAL ASSETS	**$ 4,339,222.92**	**$ 4,271,286.23**	**$ 67,936.69**	2%
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	$ -	$ 2,526.59	$ (2,526.59)	(100%)
CREDIT CARDS	$ 4,784.51	$ 235.86	$ 4,548.65	1,929%
ADMINISTRATIVE	$ 54,161.20	$ 3,909.67	$ 50,251.53	1,285%
ADULT MINISTRIES	$ 435.61	$ 435.61	$ -	0%
BUILDING & GROUNDS	$ 151,100.00	$ 151,100.00	$ -	0%
CLEARING ACCOUNTS	$ 4,073.10	$ 4,275.00	$ (201.90)	(5%)
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS	$ 51.94	$ 477.63	$ (425.69)	(89%)
FAMILY MINISTRIES	$ 16,361.63	$ 8,156.96	$ 8,204.67	101%
FIRST PRES NEIGHBORHOOD CLOSET	$ 2,048.31	$ 5,154.78	$ (3,106.47)	100%
MISSIONS & OFFERINGS	$ 57,978.48	$ 74,223.48	$ (16,245.00)	(22%)
MUSIC	$ 120.00	$ 120.00	$ -	0%
PAYROLL LIABILITIES	$ -	$ 2,250.00	$ (2,250.00)	100%
RESTRICTED FUNDS	$ 4,553.90	$ 5,646.13	$ (1,092.23)	(19%)
TECHNOLOGY	$ -	$ 537.50	$ (537.50)	(100%)
UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENTS/MEMORIA	$ 269,726.03	$ 274,233.60	$ (4,507.57)	(2%)
Total CURRENT LIABILITIES	$ 565,394.71	$ 533,282.81	$ 32,111.90	6%
LONG TERM LIABILITIES				
501 BUILDING PAYABLES	$ 3,271.08	$ 3,271.08	$ -	0%
NEW COVENANT MUTUAL FUNDS	$ 265,471.16	$ 266,203.63	$ (732.47)	(0%)
PRESBYTERY FOUNDATION HOLDINGS	$ 20,000.00	$ 20,000.00	$ -	0%
Total LONG TERM LIABILITIES	$ 288,742.24	$ 289,474.71	$ (732.47)	(0%)
Total LIABILITIES	$ 854,136.95	$ 822,757.52	$ 31,379.43	4%
EQUITY				
501 BUILDING FUND	$ 299,132.29	$ 299,132.29	$ -	0%
GENERAL FUND	$ 3,185,666.08	$ 3,143,582.99	$ 42,083.09	1%
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	$ 5,813.43	$ (329,037.71)	$ 334,851.14	(102%)
NET INCOME	$ (5,525.83)	$ 334,851.14	$ (340,376.97)	(102%)
Total EQUITY	$ 3,485,085.97	$ 3,448,528.71	$ 36,557.26	1%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	**$ 4,339,222.92**	**$ 4,271,286.23**	**$ 67,936.69**	2%

Profit & Loss Budget Performance

2023

	Jan-Dec 23	2023 Budget	% of YTD Budget	Notes	Dec 22 Comp.
OPERATING INCOME					
OFFERING INCOME	$ 666,097.38	$ 620,000.00	107%	#1	$ 58,939.04
OTHER INCOME	$ 133,022.73	$ 95,135.00	140%	#2, 3	$ 353.17
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	$ 799,120.11	$ 715,135.00	112%		$ 59,292.21
OPERATING EXPENSE					
ADMINISTRATION	$ 69,171.60	$ 53,074.00	130%	#4	$ 5,984.96
EMPLOYER PAYROLL TAXES	$ 26,545.37	$ 28,525.00	93%	#3	$ 1,519.67
FACILITIES	$ 127,767.45	$ 77,770.00	164%	#5	$ 4,319.37
HEAD OF STAFF/CALLED PASTOR	$ 141,727.25	$ 140,885.00	101%		$ 13,722.28
MINISTRY TEAMS	$ 140,572.03	$ 93,440.00	150%	#3	$ 4,114.92
PROGRAM STAFF	$ 80,687.01	$ 115,819.00	70%		$ 4,441.69
SUPPORT STAFF	$ 206,574.74	$ 210,499.00	98%		$ 15,422.98
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	$ 793,045.45	$ 720,012.00	110%		
NET OPERATING INCOME	$ 6,074.66	$ (4,877.00)	-125%		
OTHER INCOME/EXPENSE					
501 BLDG INCOME	$ 57,591.39	$ 56,200.00	102%		$ 4,747.18
501 BLDG EXPENSES	$ 58,126.28	$ 51,495.00	113%		$ 8,908.20
NET 501 BLDG INCOME	$ (534.89)	$ 4,705.00	-11%		
OTM CAMPAIGN INCOME					
OTM CAMPAIGN	$ 5,934.40	$ -	100%		$ 6,054.74
Total OTM CAMPAIGN INCOME	$ 5,934.40	$ -	100%		
OTM CAMPAIGN EXPENSES					
DOWNTOWN WORKERS	$ 17,000.00	$ -	100%	#6	
Total OTM CAMPAIGN EXPENSES	$ 17,000.00	$ -	100%		
NET OTM INCOME	$ (11,065.60)	$ -	100%		
NET OPERATING/OTHER INCOME	$ (5,525.83)	$ (172.00)	3213%		

Notes

#1	**Offering Income in 2023 was strong with $46,100 giving over expected for the year. Offering Income in 2023 was also $96,200 higher than the same time in 2022.**
#2	**The Finance Team researched new investment opportunities in 2023 which profited the church $5350 in Interest Income compared to the expected profit of $100 for the year.**
#3	**The church used a portion of the Gotz Estate gift to complete the Memorial Wall and grant $20,000 to various Missions partners.**
#4	**The cost of supplies were higher than expected in 2023 causing Administrative spending to be higher than budgeted.**
#5	**The church purchased carpet for the AA basement $7800 and new lights for the sanctuary $18000.**
#6	**The church gave CDAIDE $17,000 as part of the OTM Campaign.**

Year End Statement

January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

Beginning Balance	**$14,155.10**
Deposits	$12,549.01
Expenses	
Charitable Donations	$9,600.00
Communion Supplies	$1,514.43
Food	$2,253.38
Gifts	$2,248.17
Miscellaneous	$779.94
Sonshine	$137.02
Total Expenses	**$16,532.94**
Deacon Ending Balance	**$10,171.17**

Finance

Mission Giving

2023

Local Mission Partners

CDAIDE	$4,000
Children's Village	$750
Community Action Partnership	$3,200
Family Promise of North Idaho	$4,000
Juvenile Justice Outreach	$9,000
Presbytery of the Inland Northwest	$15,350
St. Vincent de Paul	$1,250
The Village at Orchard Ridge	$9,000
Union Gospel Mission	$6,000
Women's Development Track	$4,000

Global Mission Partners

Bethany Kids	$550
Bless China International, Rob Cheeley	$4,000
Kukhany'okuska Cares (KC), Swaziland	$9,000
Ninos Con Valor, Bolivia	$4,000
Paul Assignon, MBBE of America, Africa	$9,000
Second Chance Ministries	$750
Staff of Hope, East Africa	$3,000
Totals	$86,850

2023 was the first year First Presbyterian offered grants to their Mission Partners. Awards were given to Juvenile Justice Outreach, Kukhany'okusha Cares, Paul Assignon, and The Village at Orchard Ridge in the amount of $5,000 each. Funds for these grants are a benefit of the Ray and Louise Gotz estate gift of 2022.

In December 2023, First Presbyterian took up the challenge from the Presbytery of the Inlands Northwest to give in support of the Nez Perce church buildings needing repair. First Presbyterian made a git of $10,000 towards this effort.

New Members

Heather Bell
Cara Crouter
Mark Crouter
Tracee Dahm
Cheryl Dickinson
Christos Filios
Linda Filios
Megan Franklin
Doug Grace
Karen Grace
Emily Green
Jon Hammett
Kathy Hammett
Logan Hazard
Rachel Hazard
Erik Lloyd Johnson
Kristin Johnson
Eric Kendra
Regina Kendra
Katherine Laverman
Carol Mitchell
Earle Ruddach
Judy Ruddach
Kirsten Schwalbach
Julia Sheeks
Charley Stone
Kenneth Thompkins
Margaret Thompkins
Bruce Wallies
Maria Wedewer
Dennis White
Sherry White
Marceline Diane Whited

In Memory of

Betty Anderson [M]
Laura Brown
Jim Carkhuff [M]
Nancy Decker [M]
Ginny DeLong [M]
Jane Fallon [M]
David Faulkner
John Hart
Roberta "Bertie' Hart
Woody Hurst [M]
Larry Penny [M]
Woodie Pierce [M]
Terry Reed
Jim Sanders [M]
Helen Shortridge [M]
Jeannie Soufer
Bonnie Wargi

[M] - Member

Worship Attendance
2023

Reflecting this year of growth and excitement, our church's attendance has grown across our two services. The continued accessibility of our YouTube live-streaming, as well as YouTube recorded videos has become an integral part of Sunday worship, allowing us to serve our congregants at home (or away from home!).

Here are some of the more interesting numbers to consider:

- An average of 335 people attended our services each week. That included the 9 AM and 10:30 AM, YouTube live-stream, and YouTube video services.
- Our 10:30 service continues to grow; and we've seen a 37% increase in 2023.
- Over 620 people attended our three Christmas Eve services and over 550 people attended our two Easter services.
- Our lowest attendance was 220 on Memorial Day weekend when many are soaking up the gift of summer.
- Aside from Christmas and Easter, our highest attendance was during our Christmas UnPageant, with over 450 attending! And it's no wonder, with the cutest sheep, shepherds, wise guys and gals, and angels in town!

1stPres Downtown Since 1888
First Presbyterian Church | 521 E. Lakeside Ave | Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
www.1stpresdowntown.org | 208.667.8446