

First Presbyterian Church

Everybody's  Church



2018

Annual Report

How do we measure a year? In the corporate world it is measured in profit and loss, market share lost or gained, number of widgets sold, new product launches, innovative process or products produced, number of employees, debt and cash on hand (among many other factors). In the church, we have tried to measure our years in the

same sort of way. We have measured it in membership, attendance, baptisms, children and adults in Sunday school, Bible studies, presentations, concerts, trips and mission events. We are even required to report many of these statistics to the denomination each year.

But what if we measured this past year in a different way? What if we measured it in love (yes, this is a reference to the song “Seasons of Love” in the musical, Rent)? Though we do well in all the other statistics mentioned above, I think we do better in love. I say this because we offer love in the warm greetings exchanged on Sunday mornings. We offer love in the work of our Stephen Ministers. We offer love at baptisms and memorial services. We offer love at Alcott, in Mexico, the Philippines and Kenya. We offer love through Shop and Drop, meals to new moms and those recovering from illness. We offer love in CrossWalks,

Worship Wonder and youth group. We offer love in visits by deacons, staff and church members. We offer love in our prayers. We offer love in ways large and small. We offer love that changes lives.

Thank you to all who showed the love of God in Jesus Christ this past year and by so doing helped to make Everybody’s Church the amazing place that it is. The challenge for us in this coming year is continue our good work by offering love to friends and strangers; to those near at hand and to those far away; to those who need encouraging and to those who desire to encourage others. I know we can do it, because that is who we are, a community of love.

As Everybody’s Church we commit ourselves to serving Christ by cultivating mission, inclusion and community.

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First Presbyterian Church
1669 W. Maple Road
Birmingham, MI 48009
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www.everybodyschurch.org
email:
contact@everybodyschurch.org

Weekly Worship

Sundays:

8:30am Communion
in the Chapel

10:00am Worship
in the Sanctuary
with Sunday School

5:00pm Worship
Rejoicing Spirits
(casual dress)

2nd & 4th Sundays Sep. - April,
once a month, May-August
in Knox Auditorium
A simple meal
follows every service.

Program Staff

Rev. Dr. John Judson
Pastor

Rev. Joanne Blair
Associate Pastor
Inclusion and Pastoral Care

Rev. Bethany Peerbolte
Associate Pastor of Youth Ministries
and Mission

Cindy Merten
Director of Christian Education
& All Abilities Inclusion Ministries

Andrew Herbruck
Director of Music Ministries

Rev. Julie Madden
Rev. Ted Thode
Rev. Dr. Kate Thoresen
Parish Associates

Mission

Our mission effort is literally a gift that keeps on giving.

The relationship we have built in Pontiac through our work with Alcott Elementary School continues to be a joyful and fulfilling mission. We sent dozens of tutors, more than one hundred backpacks, hundreds of bags of food through our Shop and Drop program, Thanksgiving and Christmas food Baskets of Love, books for their Little Free Library, and Christmas gifts from the Angel Tree.

This year, the Angel Tree also provided gifts to area foster families. Our Christmas in July event collected gifts for Orchard Children's Services. Orchard's also received support from our Baskets of Love program and backpacks at the beginning of the school year. In total, we gave away over 250 Baskets of Love filled with holiday meal items and 100 backpacks. Our Parish Associate, Rev. Dr. Kate Thoresen, keeps us apprised of foster needs in the area through her work with the Faith Communities Coalition on Foster Care.

We also hosted South Oakland Shelter for a week in February, welcoming over 30 guests to share meals, warmth, and gladness. In September we packed 150 hygiene kits to be distributed by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Meals were provided to LGBTQ youth at the Ruth Ellis Center, and blankets were given to area hospitals to be gifts to patients. This summer, we served at Forgotten Harvest sorting donated food and making sandwiches for summer food programs. Habitat for Humanity hosted an Interfaith Rock the Block build where we worked alongside our Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters.

Our building houses FAR Therapeutic Arts and Recreation and serves as a satellite office of Samaritan Counseling Center and Skyline Camp and Retreat Center. We also accommodate sup-

port groups for Alzheimer's, AA, and Al-Anon. We have chartered the oldest Boy Scout Troop in Michigan for over 100 years, and this year provided space to a local Girl Scout Troop.

Internationally, we partnered again with the people of Leona Vicario, Mexico and the Yucatan Peninsula Mission to continue building a university in the community. We sent two mission teams, one to help with construction efforts and the other to provide medical care. The construction team continued work on the second building that will house classrooms and began construction on the third building. The medical team helped dozens of local children, adults, and elderly patients during their week-long clinic.

We continued our support of Faith Kasoni and her work with the Samburu people of northern Kenya. Faith teaches hygiene to remote tribes including educating girls and tribe elders about the dangers and myths of female genital mutilation. We also continued supporting the Chang Family who are PCUSA Mission co-workers in the Philippines. Their visit to our church this summer highlighted the work they do to stem the epidemic of human trafficking. Your support of Everybody's Church makes all of this possible. Thank you!



Packing Backpacks for Alcott School and Orchard's Children's Services

Inclusion



Community Conversation Around Anxiety and the Movie, "Angst."



Cindy and Joanne at the APCE Conference



Religious Diversity Journeys



Springdale Park Rejoicing Spirits Service and Picnic

Everybody's Church: A place where we seek to bring those on the margins to the middle and make strangers our friends.

Each year at FPC inclusion encompasses new arenas. In January, we hosted a screening of *Angst*, a documentary designed to raise awareness around anxiety followed by a panel of experts (David Breeden, Elizabeth Gumbis, and Bethany Peerbolte). This community conversation sought to help people identify and understand the symptoms of anxiety and encouraged them to reach out for help. It drew more than 120 people from the broader community. Other community conversations this year included one on the opioid epidemic hosted by our Inclusion and Diversity Ministry and another on suicide at a Dessert and Discovery event.

In October, more than 100 people gathered to learn about the possibility of coming together to consider future housing options for their loved ones with disabilities. The Center for Independent Futures helps families open doors to supported living options in their own neighborhoods and provides training to help families work through the process of creating the right housing solution for their loved ones. Partnering with Angels' Place and funded by a Detroit Presbytery

Faith in Action grant, we are providing community support to work through this process with about 30 families.

We also hosted the Christian segment of the Religious Diversity Journey for 150 area 7th graders during which our staff taught about worship, sacraments, seasons of the church year, the Bible, assisted with a mission project, and held a Q and A session.

Our Rejoicing Spirits Community continues to worship and gather for meals. We now create puppet videos to communicate the biblical message which are well received. For the first time we held an all church Rejoicing Spirits service at Springdale Park followed by a picnic. The youth regularly join us for dinner before their Sunday evening gatherings, and we continue our quarterly social events.

Mara and Craig Myers continue to support our young adult class, and Rev. Joanne Blair continues to support children, youth and families through our All Abilities Inclusion Ministries (AAIM). Joanne and Cindy Merten led a workshop at the Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators Conference on Creating a Culture of Inclusion.



Rejoicing Spirits Worship in Knox



Bingo Night - AAIM Event

Community

Our community at First Presbyterian Church helps us grow in faith.



Chancel and Youth Choirs



Children's Choir



Posaunenstadt



First Theater Guild's Charlotte's Web



Youth Retreat to Spring Hill

Community is at the heart of Everybody's Church. In this past year we welcomed new people into our family, made new friends, worshiped God and grew in faith. Through thought-provoking preaching, we were challenged weekly to develop as followers of Christ who love God and neighbor. We were inspired by the music offered by our adult, youth, children's, brass and bell choirs. And we were encouraged not only at Sunday morning worship, but also through our special services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Youth Sunday, Mission Sunday, Christmas Eve and in all our Rejoicing Spirits services.

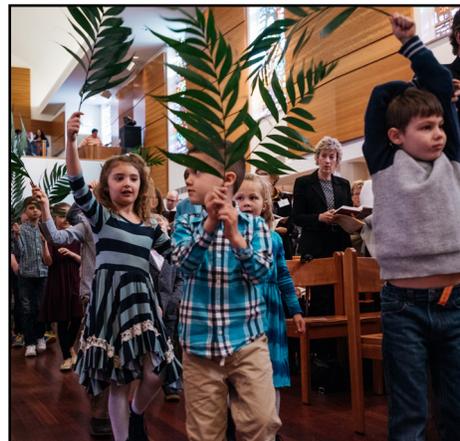
The Music Ministry helped build community by not only leading the congregation on a weekly basis but through wonderful concerts and music including Posaunenstadt, the Alma College Choir, our choir's presentation of the Missa Gaia, Andrew and Friends, and Chelsea Chen, organist.

Our children and youth made friends and were involved in faith development through their participation in our weekly lessons at Worship Wonder (3-4-year olds), CrossWalks (K-5th grade), Soul Perch (6th-8th grade), and high school youth group (9th-12th grade).

These classes offered a place for every child, including our youngest in the nursery, to begin developing their faith. Along with Sunday mornings, our children were nurtured in Vacation Bible Camp (which is always at capacity) and the Christmas pageant. Our youth went on retreats where they built relationships and discovered more about God's love and grace. Our newest Confirmation Class kicked off with eighteen youth participating.

Community was also created through all church activities including events like Fall Kick-Off, Pie in the Park, Bingo night and our First Theater Guild productions, "Charlotte's Web" and "Once Upon a Mattress." In addition, there were ongoing community activities and ministries including Stephen's Ministry, Senior Adventures, Gardening Angels, Dinners for Eight, Lunch and Learn, Bible and Brew, Covenant Groups, Knitting Ministry, Saturday Calvin class, Monday and Tuesday morning study groups and Dessert and Discovery.

Finally, we need to note that none of these community events would have been possible without the amazing team of volunteers, teachers, chaperones and staff. In other words, it takes a community to make a community.



Palm Sunday Processional



Vacation Bible Camp

Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center

It has been another year of growth for the First Presbyterian Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center.

We are committed to providing a quality program within a safe, nurturing environment. Our curriculum encourages and promotes the intellectual, social, cognitive, emotional and physical development of young children.

Our mission statement, noted above, sums up our continued pursuit of excellence and 2018 was no exception. I received a note from one of our Hand-in-Hand parents about two of our former students who entered kindergarten together this past fall.

She indicated that during the parent/teacher conference, the teacher said that after a couple of months of teaching the two children she was able to tell that they went to the same preschool. She was very impressed by their academics, knowledge, behavior, and overall attitude, and she attributed it to the Hand-in-Hand Center. She said she sees a difference between those two children and the other children in the classroom and said it is the kind of school she wants for her own children.

We have added another four-year-old preschool room so now we have

two three-year-old preschool rooms and two four-year-old preschool rooms. Over the summer the preschool teachers re-arranged their classrooms and re-worked and updated the preschool curriculum.

The preschool/young five music program, which is in its second year, has added so much to our preschool curriculum and the concerts have been wonderful. We hope to expand the program to some of the other classrooms in the future.

This past summer several of the classroom walls received a fresh coat of paint, new school supplies, and some new furniture was purchased.

The center also increased its security measures, which are in the final stages of completion. Once completed, the center entrances will be secure during operational hours.

Currently our student enrollment is 151 students. We accept children between four months and five years. Thirteen percent of our families

are either members or are attending church services. Six of the 26 part-time employees and myself, the full-time director, are members of the church.

We love to partner with the church throughout the year on mission projects. Our families supported Baskets of Love by donating 57 boxes of cereal. We assembled and donated 120 snack bags for Alcott Elementary school children in Pontiac to enjoy over the Thanksgiving weekend. Our families are very generous and have donated many items for Foster Care throughout the year.

Our families attend the church Vacation Bible Camp and many of the family events offered through the church, such as the youth fundraiser babysitting service and the stuffed animal lock-in.

Registration for the 2019-20 school year, which begins Monday, September 10, 2019, will open in February.

Heidi Wilkinson, Director of the FPC Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center



Outdoor percussion studio



Indoor recess



Four Year Olds Studying earthworms



Reading a book



Halloween



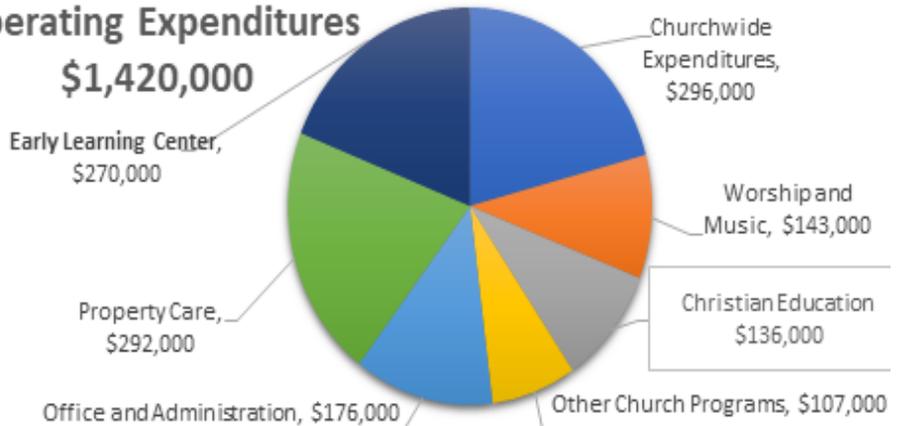
Four Year Olds' Science Project

Finance

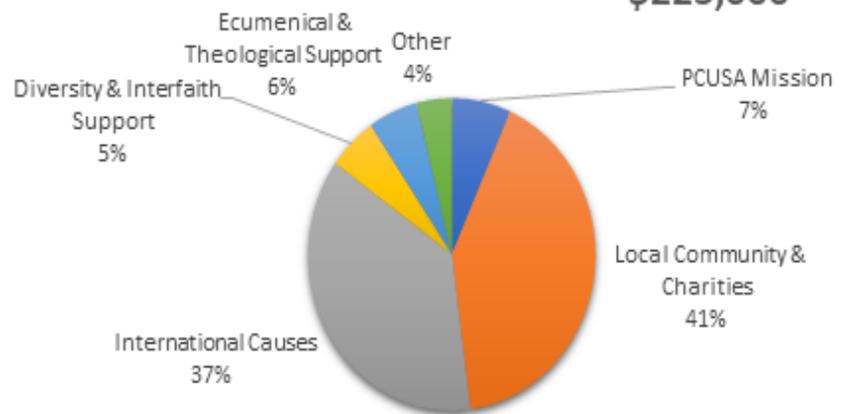
The operating income of FPC consists primarily of pledge and non-pledge contributions, which were about the same as the prior year. Overall income improved because we rented Knox kitchen to caterers and because our early learning center continued to grow. The overall operating expenses of the church grew by about 7%. This increase was primarily driven by property costs: capital improvements (furnishings for the new Calvin Hall, carpeting, interior signage), costs to prepare Knox kitchen for rental, and increased property repair, landscaping and utilities costs. In addition, the church beefed up its social media presence, added adult AAIM teachers to staffing, and purchased new church management software.

The First Foundation granted \$124,355, just over half of FPC's benevolences, to projects outside of FPC in 2018. First Foundation also provided funds for FPC Mission activities. (See page 7 for details.) In addition, over \$14,300 was expended by the Deacons for immediate needs in our local community (see page 7). Our church's ministry programs (Baskets of Love, Alcott Friday Food Program, Foster Families ministry, Mexico mission trips, etc.) expended

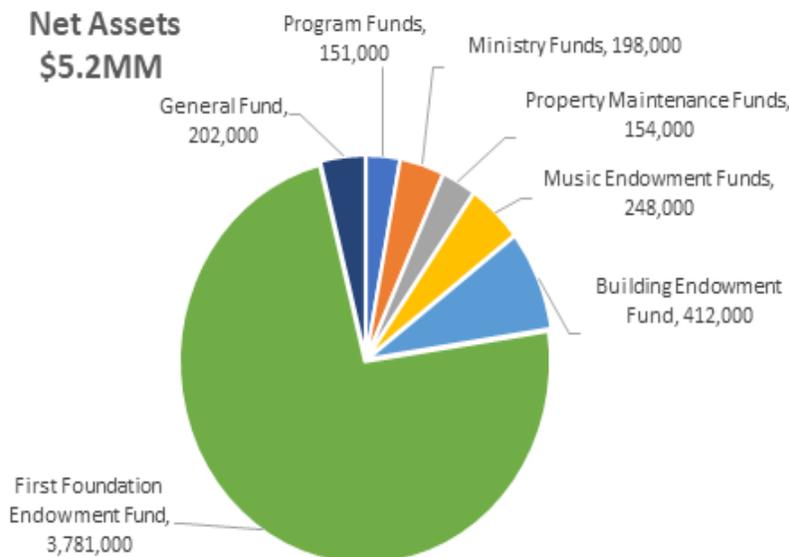
2018 FPC Consolidated Operating Expenditures
\$1,420,000



FPC 2018 Benevolences
\$225,000



Net Assets
\$5.2MM



just over \$71,000. Finally, our church contributed \$15,000 to PCUSA Shared Mission.

FPC's Net Assets decreased by \$340,000 primarily due to declines in the market value of First Foundation investments at the end of the year. Our Ministry and Music Funds benefited from bequests during 2018, and our Property Maintenance Funds were expended for completion of Calvin Hall and new carpet in the main hallway.

First Foundation



In 2018, First Foundation awarded grants totaling **\$188,655** to a variety of local and international causes, as well as to FPC itself for specific needs beyond the church’s annual operating budget. All grants were supported by a

ministry of First Presbyterian Church and furthered our vision of mission, inclusion and community.

Because of an unusually high sum of money available for First Foundation grants in 2018 and an anticipated reduction of money available in 2019 due to changes in FPC’s fund appropriations policy, effective January 2019, First Foundation awarded several

grants in 2018 for expenditures that will occur in 2019.

In 2018 First Foundation gratefully received major legacy gifts from long-time church members, Pat Lindroth and Barbara Lewis.

Since its inception in the 1980s, First Foundation has awarded \$3,594,188.

At year’s end, assets managed by First Foundation totaled \$5,025,235.

Grants Awarded in 2018

Grants Awarded to Projects Outside of FPC:

Local: Alcott Art Therapy	\$ 6,440
Local: Dream Centers: Lookout House	2,500
Local: Great Futures Family Services	2,000
Local: Habitat for Humanity: Rock the Block	5,000
Local: Hope Warming Center	5,500
Local: Interfaith: Religious Diversity Journeys	5,000
Local: Micah 6: Mobile Produce Truck	7,000
Local: MRDI :Regional Youth Internship	7,500
Local: Presbyterian Villages: Be Healthy	5,000
Local: Skyline: Shelter and Shade	6,225
Local: Song and Spirit: Care Pax Outreach	5,000
Local: WMR: Roof for Local Office	10,000
Local: Rotation.org Teacher Training	1,500
Local: Rotation.Org Writer Pilot Project	7,500

International: Faith Kasoni	\$ 12,500
International: Maji Safi: Disease Prevention	5,100
International: Malawi Matters, HIV/AIDS Ed.	5,000
International: YPM School Construction	25,590
Subtotal	\$124,355

Grants Supporting FPC Mission Activities:

Music	\$ 5,400
Mexico Medical Mission Trip	6,500
YPM Trip 2018	8,000
YPM Trip 2019	8,000
Foster/Adoptive Families Partnership	3,000
Hands On Mission – 2019	21,000
Hands On Mission – 2018	7,400
AFF: Young Theologian Lectures	5,000
Subtotal	\$ 64,300
Grand Total	\$188,655

Deacons

Welcoming - Celebrating - Connecting -
Growing - Serving - Reaching

FINANCIAL

Grants totaling \$8,200 to: Furniture Bank to support their Furniture for Families program; Lighthouse of Oakland County to support their Basic Needs Program (pantry program, housing & utility assistance); Fort Street Presbyterian to support their meal program, South Oakland Shelter to support overnight stays at FPC, including food, laundry and transportation; the Welcome Inn to support food and shelter expenses and COTS to support the cost of school uniforms for children in need.

The Deacons also distributed \$5,047 to individuals having specific financial needs.

IN-REACH

Deacons provided Sunday morning coffee, visitation to shut-ins, coordinated the Good Friday Prayer Vigil, transportation for members to Sunday services, support services, greeting cards of support to members, flower distribution to senior homes, greeters and support for Rejoicing Spirits and Communion.

OUTREACH

Food Bank distributions were made to Angels’ Place homes, Baldwin Center, Gleaners Food Bank, HAVEN, Lighthouse, Ruth Ellis Center and Welcome Inn.



Deacon volunteers supported the Bike Build (and other programs) at Orchards Children’s Services, the Welcome Inn events and programs, Angels’ Place home visits, Fort Street Career Closet, Furniture Bank expansion and other programs at Baldwin Center, HAVEN and Lighthouse.

Property Care

Looking back at changes to the building in 2018.

In addition to the regular repair and upgrading of the building and grounds throughout 2018, the Property Care Committee took on several significant projects.

Early in the year thanks to a generous anonymous donor, our original long and low exterior sign facing Maple Road was replaced with one placed further forward and perpendicular to the flow of traffic. Night lighting and its placement makes it easier for visitors to find our building during the day and after dark.

Interior signs throughout the building were replaced by Visual Entities, a recognized leader in sign design that is used by many hospitals and businesses in the area. The goal was to improve the ability of our guests to navigate when they come into the building for the first time and to upgrade our signage to state-of-the-art.

Security was enhanced for the Hand-In-Hand Center and FAR areas with the addition of locking doors, access control systems on doors, and audio/

video entry systems. Most of these improvements were made on the East side of the building.

At the end of the year, carpeting was replaced in the main North/South hallway and areas immediately adjacent to it. Most of the cost of the \$50,000 project was contained in the 2018 budget. Look for new paint and lighting in that hallway early in 2019.



New signage in the church.



Phase I of new carpeting in the main hallway.



New sign in front of the church.

By the Numbers



Membership	828
Average Worship Attendance	260
New Members	19
Baptisms	9
Videos and Views	174 videos, 10,300 views
Church Facebook Page	631 page likes
Twitter	176 followers (@fpcbirmingham)

Follow Us on



On behalf of the staff and session, I want to thank all of you, our members and friends, who supported the life and work of First Presbyterian Church in 2018. Your willingness to be present, to participate, to pledge (and give) and to pray for us insured that Everybody's Church continues cultivating mission, inclusion and community. We are excited about the opportunities and challenges that 2019 will present, trusting that God will guide us in this coming year and in all of the years ahead.

Dr. John Judson