

Everybody's Church

First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham



2019

Annual Report

Change is the only constant in life, and this has been a year of change. We saw change in our personnel as we celebrated the retirements of the Rev. Joanne Blair, as Associate Pastor for Inclusion and Pastoral Care, and Jim Goss and Carl Fischer as volunteer co-business managers. We saw change in our choir section leaders as those leaders who had been with us for several years including Kent Wattleworth, Allison Vernon and Ronald Perkins

moved away or took jobs with greater responsibility. We watched as our choir changed out of thirty-year old robes into new, lighter and brighter robes. We witnessed change in our building as we installed new lighting, carpet and paint. We watched church members move away to new adventures and we welcomed new people into the life and work of our community. We also witnessed record generosity in both giving in 2019 and pledging for 2020.

These changes are a reminder that our church, like every church, is a living, breathing body of Christ. We are always changing because we are always seeking to be more faithful to our vocation as the people of God; called to serve Christ through mission, inclusion and community. Within this Annual Report you will read about the multiple ways we strive to be faithful to that vision. You will read about mission efforts touching the lives of hundreds of people, inclusion efforts that not only welcomed people into our

community but connected us with the broader world and the many ways we continually built community in 2019.

I have always known that First Presbyterian Church, Everybody's Church, is an extraordinary community. This realization was brought into sharper focus when I attended a continuing education event last year, where other pastors were amazed at all that we do and how we impact the world for Christ. I am proud to be one of your pastors and to have the opportunity to share in all that we do together. I look forward to this new decade as together we continue to be shaped by the Spirit in all that we do so that we can continue to change lives and the world for God.

Pastor John Judson

*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. - March,
once a month, April-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 abundant generosity of our church shined in 2019. Our support spread God's love around the globe, in the United States and in the community that surrounds us.

Our work stretched to Kenya and the Philippines where our mission co-workers serve. In Kenya, Faith Kasoni teaches the Samburu people about the importance of hygiene and debunks myths about female genital mutilation. She guides elders to adopt more loving rituals and helps girls say "no" to this dangerous practice. In the Philippines, the Chang-Lopez family advocate for people who have been trafficked for sex work or as drug mules. They help victims get a fair trial and work with the local government to adopt more protective policies.

We had a record number of members volunteer to be mission workers on the Yucatan Peninsula Mexico Mission trip. Their efforts made it possible for the university there to level the foundation of and pour the columns for their third building. The team also painted a parking lot and began work on a fence to protect the university's property. Our church's relationship with the community was kept strong as the team played with the local children and met the people of Leona Vicario.

As news poured in about the devastation of Puerto Rico, this church responded by sending financial aid through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). Mission Outreach seeded the funding from their budget. PDA is just one agency that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) runs. We support other efforts of the national church with our blanket drive, Christmas Joy offering, and One Great Hour of Sharing.

Within our church, Mission Outreach also planned multiple dinners with projects throughout the year to help our congregation mature

in faith through service and gratitude. The ministry plans and organizes Baskets of Love three times a year with the overwhelming support of the congregation, both financially and in hours of work. Other projects this year included hosting a Mission Expo, gathering gifts for the Angel Tree, filling backpacks, collecting toys for Christmas in July, a bunk bed build with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and hosting a week of South Oakland Shelter. Our Parish Associate, Rev. Dr. Kate Thoresen, organized a foster kit-packing activity and continues to keep us in the loop of foster needs in the area through her work with the Faith Communities Coalition on Foster Care. All these projects were inspiring moments to experience our church's willingness to share our blessings and to learn from people who are often not given a voice.

God continues to work through the people of this church to serve the needs of Alcott Elementary School in Pontiac. We sent dozens of tutors, more than one hundred backpacks, hundreds of bags of food through our Shop 'N Drop program, books for their Little Free Library, Christmas gifts, and more as we became aware of needs.

As always, 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 support groups for Alzheimer's, AA, and Al-Anon. We have chartered the oldest Boy Scout Troop in Michigan for over 100 years, started the charter for a Scout troop for girls, and provided space to a local Girl Scout Troop.

The Spirit is profoundly moving and using this church to meet the needs of God's people from Birmingham to Samburu. Thank you for continuing to be open to what the Spirit is asking.

Inclusion



SAIL parents receiving training.



Our Rejoicing Spirits Service continues to grow.



Minoti Rajput teaching a workshop.



We seek full inclusion of all.



Everybody's Church - Where Everyone Belongs and Everyone Serves. We welcome all who seek a place to belong, to be valued, to know and be known, and the gifts of all are appreciated.

This year with the help of a Detroit Presbytery Faith at Work grant we were able to provide generous scholarships for ten families to attend training in Chicago with the Center for Independent Futures, an organization that has pioneered models of interdependent living in the Chicago area and works with others around the country. Our group, which includes two FPCB families, spent three days in Chicago learning how we might create such options in our area for our group and beyond. This dedicated group of parents has continued to meet monthly with an additional two-day training in November. This initiative continues in partnership with FPCB and Angels' Place as we provide meeting space and staff support (Rev. Joanne Blair and Cindy Merten) each month. They are known as SAIL, Solutions for Adult Interdependent Living.

As a part of our mission to educate and advocate for people of all abilities, in October we offered a workshop on "Life Planning for a Child with Special Needs Beyond Wills and Trusts" offered by Minoti Rajput attended by about 30 parents and others.

Our Rejoicing Spirits service continues to grow and relationships deepen with 50-70+ persons regularly in attendance. If you have never attended a service, it is a lively, interactive and joyous worship service where we sing,

pray, re-tell and dramatize Bible stories and then draw life lessons from them. It is a "no-shush" worship service for people of all ages and abilities and is followed by a community meal where participants build relationships.

In addition, members of our team provide spiritual leadership and lead activities in various group homes. This ministry values shared leadership and participation of all persons.

The mission of AAIM is to facilitate and advocate for full inclusion of children, youth and adults in the whole life of the church. Our Sunday morning program continues with our Young Adult Class under the capable leadership of Mara and Craig Myers, and children of all abilities are included with supports in our early childhood and elementary programs.

Our Diversity and Inclusion efforts continued this year with an annual religious diversity experience for 150 seventh graders in the greater Detroit area who spent a day learning about our worship, the Bible, sacraments, the church calendar year, and participating in a mission project as they moved throughout our building.

Most significantly, at the end of 2019, Rev. Joanne Blair retired and we celebrated her ministry. Her leadership with Rejoicing Spirits, pastoral care and our inclusion programs will be greatly missed.



Rev. Joanne's retirement celebration

As Everybody's Church we strive to be a faithful, open and inclusive community. We welcome the full participation of all people of any ability, gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or any other life circumstance.

Community

First Presbyterian Church is committed to cultivating community.



Youth Choir



Children's Choir



First Theater Guild's Alice in Wonderland



Spring 2019 Confirmation Class



Vacation Bible Camp

Everybody's Church has always believed in the importance of cultivating community. During this past year we did so by welcoming new people into our family, making new friends, worshiping God and serving together. In worship, through thought-provoking preaching we were challenged to deepen our ability to follow Jesus and to 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, Kirkin' of the Tartans, In the Presence of the Holy, eLOFT and Rejoicing Spirits services.

The Music Ministry helped build community by not only leading the congregation on a weekly basis, but through wonderful music including Posaunenstadt, our Chancel Choir's presentation of the Durufle Requiem at the St. Paul Cathedral in Detroit and concerts by Ken Thompkins and Andrew Herbruck, Audivi, Exigence and Westbound Situation.

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 all our children and youth to begin developing

their faith. Along with Sunday mornings our children got to know one another through First Theater Guild's production of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and were nurtured in Vacation Bible Camp, which was led by a wonderful group of adult and youth volunteers. Our youth went on retreats where they built relationships and discovered more about God's love and grace. Our Spring confirmation class had 18 youth. Our newest Confirmation Class kicked off with six of our youth alongside two youth from other congregations.

Community was also created through all church activities including Pipes and Ladders, Christmas in July, Fall Kick-Off Sunday, All Church Picnic, Bunk Bed Build, Foster Care Bed Build, Christmas Around the World and our Live Nativity. In addition, there were ongoing community activities and ministries including Stephen's Ministry, Senior Adventurers, Gardening Angels, Six at Six dinners, Lunch and Learn, Bible and Brew, Covenant Groups, Knitting Ministry, Saturday Calvin class, Monday and Tuesday morning study groups and Dessert and Discovery.

Building community can only be done with and through the commitment of the entire congregation. It takes an amazing team of volunteers, teachers, chaperones and staff to make it all happen...and you were those people, committed to cultivating community here at First Church.



Rejoicing Spirits Service at the Park



Live Nativity

Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center

Working “Hand-in-Hand” we continue to create a loving community centered on high quality education within a safe, nurturing environment that focuses on the whole child.

Hand-in-Hand has full enrollment, providing education for 148 children ranging in age from four months to six years. Many of the classrooms have long waitlists. Our extended day and after-school programs continue to be very popular. We have added an additional “Stretch and Grow” exercise class and art class. We had a wonderful year with one of the 2019 highlights being an all-staff training in our discipline model using the Love and Logic method.

The annual Hand-in-Hand mini summer camp for currently enrolled families that occurs after our school year is over was a tremendous success. The campers had a great four days learning about outer space. We had 89 campers, which was the largest number of children since its inception nine years ago. Hand-in-Hand also hosted our first Scholastic Book fair which was an incredible success and we earned scholastic dollars which has enabled us to purchase more books for our classrooms.

We have a staff of 26 part-time employees and one full time director. We are blessed with having many long-term teachers and this year one of our staff celebrated her 20th year teaching the children at Hand-in-Hand.

We align with our mission statement to strive to continue to provide a quality program. We updated our three-year-old preschool and four-year-old preschool curricula. We continually work to provide a safe and nurturing environment by upgrading our security measures and having additional training in this area. We highlight and teach a different social skill each month throughout all our classrooms which aligns with our mission to encourage and promote the intellectual, social, cognitive, emotional and physical development of young children.

We continue our mission of giving by partnering with the church in supporting Baskets of Love with donated cereal boxes. The four-year-old preschoolers decorated and packed

132 Thanksgiving Holiday snack bags for children who attend Alcott Elementary school in Pontiac to enjoy over Thanksgiving weekend. Alcott expressed a need for hats and mittens so the HIH families rallied and donated many hats and mittens that were delivered to the school on December 18th. Our families donate items for foster care throughout the year and many of the HIH students attend the church’s Vacation Bible Camp.

We are extremely blessed and thankful to be a part of such a loving and supportive community within this church.

Registration for the 2020-21 school year begins in February. If you are interested in a tour or registering, please contact HIH by email: handinhand@everybodyschurch.org or call Heidi Wilkinson, Director at 248.654.8544.

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



Playing cooperatively



Walking hand-in-hand



Creating a zip track



Looking at books



Collecting cereal for Baskets of Love



Playing outside with friends

Finance

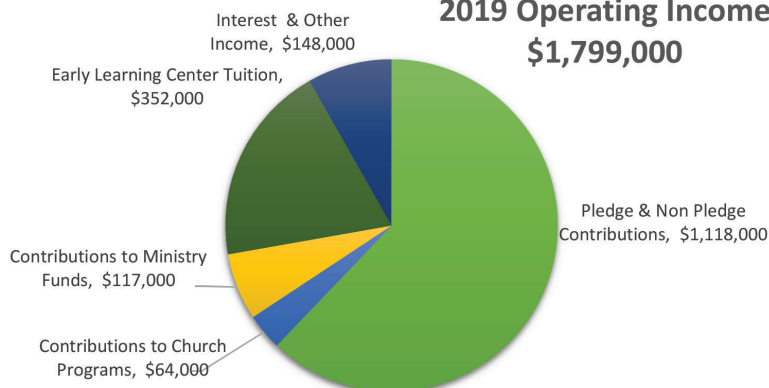
FPC's Pledge and Non-Pledge combined contributions are the primary source of income for FPC. They were essentially flat in 2019. Overall income grew by about \$100,000 primarily because of increases in donations to our Concert Series, Music Programs, and support for our Mexico Mission trip. In addition, our All Abilities Inclusion program received a \$20,000 Grant from the Presbytery of Detroit. Finally, Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center increased its tuition income.

Expenses increased in 2019 by about \$150,000. In 2019, we had an Associate Pastor for a full year, rather than half year as in 2018. Program staff received raises and five longevity bonuses were earned in 2019. In addition, wages for Hand-in-Hand teachers were increased. Program expenses in 2019 included the purchase of new choir robes, training of five new Stephens' Ministers, sponsorship of inter-dependent living training for 10 families of special needs adults, and sending our high school youth to the PCUSA's Triennium Youth Gathering at Purdue University. On the administrative side, we upgraded our Wi-Fi, and upgraded our phone

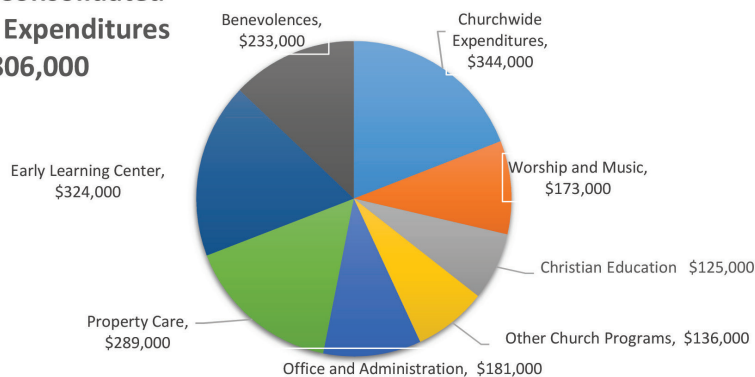
system to meet current standards for emergency calls. Property Care expenditures were flat overall as we finished the first floor carpeting and painting, converted the entire building

to LED bulbs (generating significant savings on electric costs), installed security cameras, refinished the front door and otherwise maintained the property.

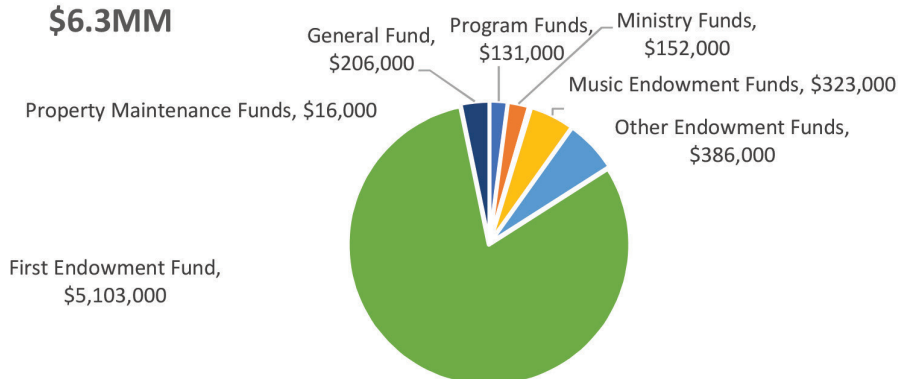
**FPC Consolidated
2019 Operating Income
\$1,799,000**



**2019 FPC Consolidated
Operating Expenditures
\$1,806,000**



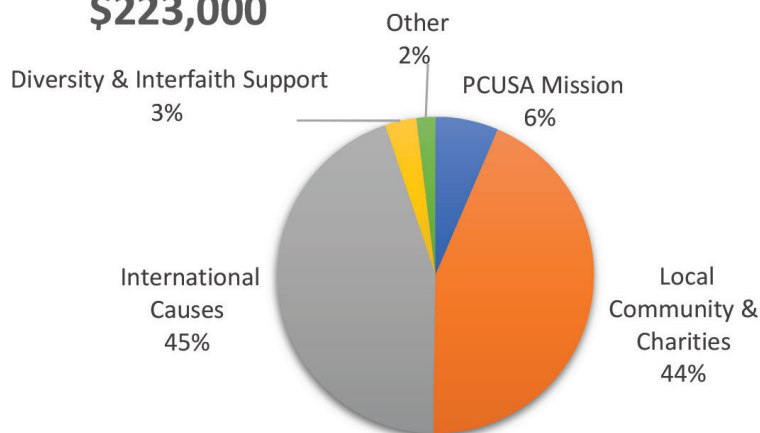
**FPC 12/31/2019
Net Assets
\$6.3MM**



Most of FPC's assets consist of investments in Session designated endowment funds. As such, these funds are invested and the earnings from the funds are used to support the General Fund's operating budget, property and FPC's benevolences, specifically First Foundation Grants. These funds grew in 2019 from \$5.1 to \$6.3 million as the market recovered from 2018 year-end losses and because of a significant bequest from the Estate of Barbara Lewis to the Deacons and to the Church. In addition, contributions to the endowment funds totaling \$28,000 were made by a number of our current and former members this year.

Benevolences

FPC 2019 Benevolences \$223,000



The Deacons, Mission Outreach Ministries and First Foundation are the primary benevolence arms of FPC.

This year, our Deacons expended over \$39,000 in support of immediate needs for food, shelter, housing, and transportation in our local community.

Grants from Deacons went to the 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; Angels' Place to support special needs in their population; Baldwin Center to support the soup kitchen for adults and children and a summer program for children; Common Ground Sanctuary to help in their continuing efforts for youth, adults and families in crisis; and COTS to support the cost of school uniforms for children in need. Deacons also distributed grants to individuals with specific financial needs.

Deacons' Food Bank distributions were made to Angels' Place homes, Baldwin Center, Common Ground Sanctuary, HAVEN, Lighthouse, and Welcome Inn.

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.

FPC Mission Outreach Ministries spent \$105,000 on mission programs such as Baskets of Love, Backpacks and Angel Tree. FPC continued the Mexico Mission Trip to build a university in the Yucatan Peninsula. Finally, our Foster Families Partnerships supported foster children and their families with over \$17,000.

First Foundation awarded \$125,000 in grants in 2019, \$53,000 of which supported FPC's mission programs mentioned above, the Kenya Mission Trip and a Media Safety program. In addition, First Foundation made the following grants:

Alcott School Uniforms	\$7,000
MI Roundtable for Diversity	\$7,500
Power Kids Company Van	\$25,000
Sleep in Heavenly Peace Beds	\$2,800
Visions Documentary	\$5,000
Immolkalee Fair Housing	\$2,500
Puerto Rico Presbyterian	\$5,000
Chang and Lopez PC (USA)	\$5,000
Haiti Nursing Foundation	\$7,500
Malawi Matters	\$7,500
Yucatan Internet & Software	\$5,455

Since its inception in the 1980s, First Foundation has awarded \$3,722,183. At year's end, First Foundation's assets totaled just over \$5 million.

All grants are supported by a ministry of First Presbyterian Church and further our vision of mission, inclusion and community.

Property Care

Maintaining our church for generations to come.

In addition to the normal repair, maintenance, and upgrading of the building and grounds throughout the year, the Property Care Ministry oversaw the completion of several major projects in 2019.

All 469 florescent fixtures throughout the building were converted to accommodate LEDs. In addition to reducing our energy costs, the LEDs provide a brighter light and have an estimated life of 17 years. Larry Malover initiated the project, secured DTE rebates, and made most of the conversions.

We continued to paint and replace carpeting in the building with the renovation of the Hand-In-Hand hallways.

A new camera security system was installed which covers the parking lot, south entrances, internal hallways, and the Hand-In-Hand hallways and entrances with ten cameras with real time viewing and recording of activity for up to 30 days.

We completed the installation of new signs throughout the building with the upgrading of signage in the second floor and CrossWalks hallways.

We converted the children's computer room (Biblical Bytes) to a client family lounge including new furniture and accessories.

We also installed a new phone system that is compliant with federal emergency regulations.

Budgeted projects for 2020 include renovating the Youth Room, paint and carpet in the Music hallway, replacing the Pleasant Street drain, renovating hallway seating, and refinishing the Sanctuary floor.



The Family Lounge on the second floor CrossWalks hallway.



One of the new cameras that is part of the security system.



One of the new CrossWalks signs.

By the Numbers



Membership	818
Average Worship Attendance	269
New Members	27
Baptisms	11
Videos and Views	244 videos, 15,200 views
Live Stream of Worship	692 views
Church Facebook Page	670 page likes

Follow Us on



I want to extend my thanks not only to you the congregation of First Presbyterian Church but to the amazing staff that we are so fortunate to have. I want to thank you, the congregation, for your continuing faithfulness to the life and work of our community. Your presence, prayers, participation and pledging have allowed us to accomplish amazing things this past year. I also want to thank our dedicated and talented staff. Every member of our team sees their work as a calling and not a job. They give over and above what they are paid for or what might be expected of them. Together then, we the staff and members, make a difference for God in this community and in the world. I look forward to 2020 and the exciting possibilities that it offers for our ministry and mission together.

Dr. John Judson