

First Presbyterian Church

November

December

2022 Messenger

A Message from your Pastor

When it comes to stewardship, the greatest temptation is to say that we will give more when we can afford it. This is especially true when our circumstances create heightened anxiety and fear about the future. Anxiety can increase as easily in a time of personal crisis or national crisis. As our anxieties grow, so do our worries about our jobs, our bills, and our future. We do what we can to protect ourselves and those we love, and then, at the end of the month, if there is anything left (time, talent, or money) we give to the church.

Of course, the church is bigger than simply First Presbyterian Church, but neither is it anything less than First Presbyterian Church. God's mission goes beyond the walls, budget and staff of FPC (God calls and sends *you as missionaries*), *but neither is God's mission anything less. This is because God has called and sent the local Church to be the salt and light in the communities in which he sends them. This mission occurs both in and around the building of FPC, and it occurs through the lives of those sent out into the community. To put this another way, God has called each of us to steward the gifts he has given. Regardless, the calling of the Christian is to give.*

As I have served as pastor here for eight years (as of Jan 1, 2023), I have observed that this congregation understands this calling. Many of you understand your stewardship of gifts. Some of you give your talents of construction and building; others your talents of financial and law know-how; others your talents of service and behind-the-scenes work; others your talents of teaching and wisdom. And, God calls all of us to prayer and to the stewardship of our resources. You, as a congregation, model this well. It is a sign that God dwells among you in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is not merely a characteristic, it is the presence of God himself.

This ought to give us great confidence as we journey into the future. Your session has had challenging conversation around the stewarding of our resources. Finances are growing tighter and the circumstances we face tempt us toward anxiety. There might be difficult decision in the future. And yet, the God has made us his dwelling place; we are the Body of Christ; and the Holy Spirit continues to work in and through us as the locus of God's mission in the world. Thanks be to God.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dave

Preaching Notes

These days we like to throw around the word “unprecedented.” We use it in reference to the pandemic, to politics, even to the weather. But any study of history will reveal that people have always lived through “unprecedented” times. Each generation of God’s people faces challenges afresh. We’ve always thrown around the word “unprecedented” and we’ve always asked ‘what on earth is going on?’ We need a guide and we need wisdom. Like us, the prophet Jeremiah (b. ~650-570 BC) lived through disruptive times and is the stalwart guide we need. Jeremiah lived through the fall of Jerusalem and the Babylonian Exile -- some of the darkest moments for God’s people. Everything that could go wrong did -- especially for Jeremiah. But Jeremiah stuck it out. He persevered, he prayed, and he preached. The great disruptions through which Jeremiah lived deepened him and strengthened him. The same can happen for us with Jeremiah as our guide.

Nov. 6 - Jeremiah 32 - Investment

Nov. 13 - Jeremiah 33

Nov. 20 - Jeremiah 23 - Shepherd

Nov. 27 - Romans 13:11-14 - First Sunday of Advent

Dec. 4 - Romans 15:4-13 - Second Sunday of Advent

Dec. 11 - Romans 1:8-17 - Third Sunday of Advent

Dec. 18 - Romans 1:1-7 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

A Message from Session

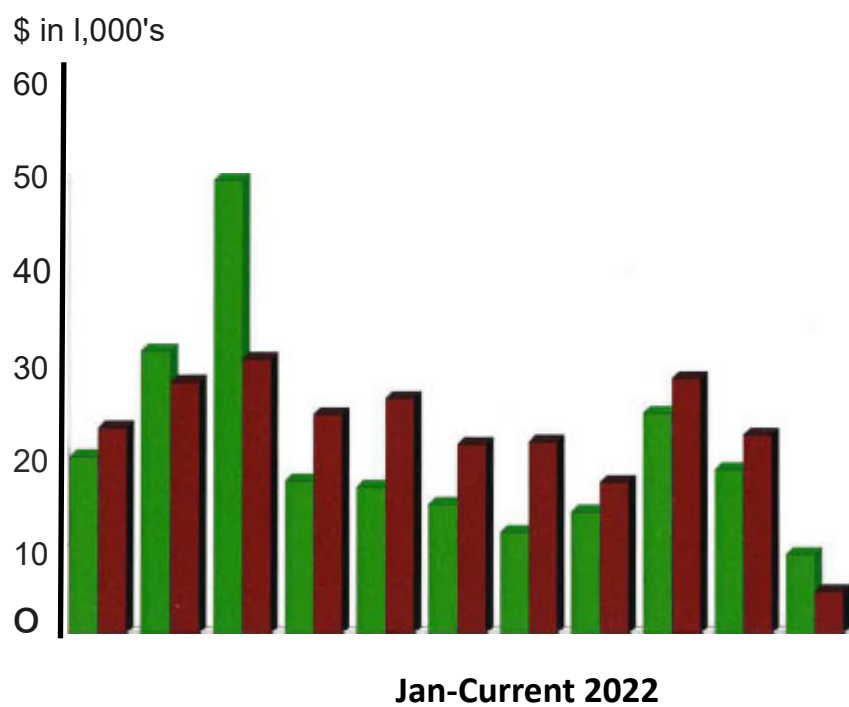
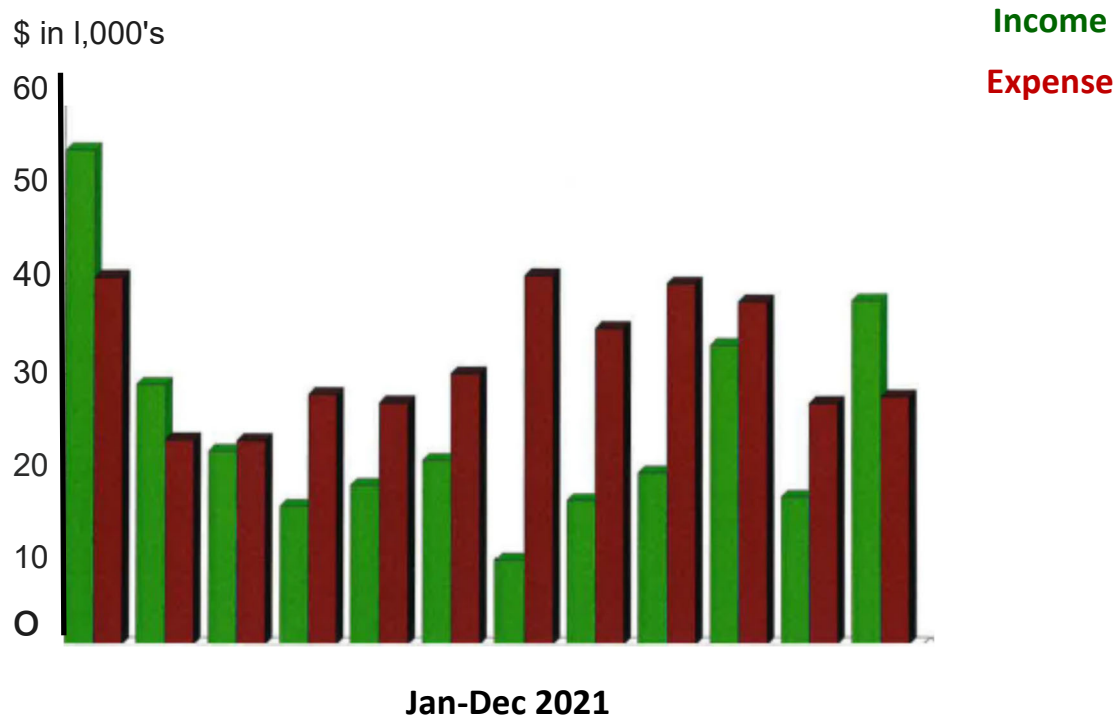
Dear Congregation:

For the last several months, the session has been discerning the best use of our resources. Largely due to forces outside our control (the pandemic, diminishing role of the church in society, etc.) we find ourselves in a challenging season. While we believe we have the responsibility to continue supporting the current ministries entrusted to our care, our financial and volunteer resources have begun to diminish. Yet, we believe that our mission remains the same.

We gather each Sunday under the leadership, teaching and guidance of Pastor David Webster as we hear the Word and celebrate the Sacraments. We continue to minister to young disciples through the ministry of Jennifer Babino in both Sunday school and Kingdom Kids. Through our volunteers, we continue to maintain Second Saturday, visit shut-ins, and sustain Bible studies. We financially support many outreach ministries including Family Promise, Young Life, Chi Alpha, Asotin County Food Bank, and Homes of Hope. We continue to send missionary-members out into the community every week.

As we look to the many ways we “seek Christ, serve others, together” it is the responsibility of session elders to examine the resources of time, skills, and finances to continue in our called mission. In the coming weeks you will be receiving information about our anticipated expenses, as we discern the stewardship of our resources. In a spirit of transparency, we wanted to also give you a reflective look on the past year:

The graphs shows a discrepancy on a month to month basis on our offering expectations, but we do not have a significant variation in our monthly expenses. This places significant pressure on our financial health and compromises some of the mission outreach.



A Message from Session Continued

Synopsis budget 2022 based on year to date information and historical giving patterns:

Estimated

Expenses:	-\$296,013.00
Offering income	+\$260,320.00
Kingdom Kids Income	<u>+\$23,178.00</u>
Balance	-\$12,515.00

Almost $\frac{2}{3}$ of our budget is to support staff payroll and benefits. We have already significantly reduced staff over the past several years to reflect our changing ministries and income.

We invite you to pray about and consider how you can support FPC's ministries to best meet our mission call. We look forward to answering your questions one-on-one, and invite you to participate in the congregational meetings in the upcoming weeks. We want you to fully participate in this mission we share. Thank you for your prayers and support as we look into the upcoming years of "Seeking Christ, serving others, together".

Grace and Peace,
The Session of FPC



I am thankful for my mom.
- Henry age 4



I am thankful for my mommy making me feel better
and I am happy God is my helper. - Emersyn, age 4

I am thankful for all of the people,
school and my house. - Colson age 5

I am thankful for Parker and Daddy. - Nash age 5

A Message from Kingdom Kids!

I am thankful for my cat, God and Mrs. Babino.
- Emily age 4

I am thankful for God making it so we
have kittens and dogs.

I am thankful for the way God created us, family, a house, toys.
- Lucy age 4



I am thankful for giving you hugs!
Can I give you a hug? -
Isla age 4



Kingdom Kids Continued

Kingdom Kids Preschool has been a ministry of First Presbyterian Church for over 35 years. Over the years your support and prayers for the program have become a bridge from our church to the hundreds of families in our community who have enrolled their precious children in our programs.

Thank you for your continued support of Kingdom Kids Preschool.

September was the beginning of the school year for the children in PlaySchool and PreSchool. PlaySchool, for children ages 3-4 years old, has 2 classes this school year. PlaySchool is each Tuesday and Friday and has a morning and an afternoon class. September introduced 19 children to Kingdom Kids PlaySchool. PreSchool, for children ages 4-5 years old, has a morning class that meets each Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. The start of the school year brought 11 children into the program. In September our Christian education focus for all 3 classes was the story of Creation. The PreSchool class ended out the month with a Creation Ceremony for families that included sharing their Creation Banners, songs and Bible verse.

October arrived quickly and everyone settled into our classroom routines. New friendships are growing and the children are enjoying their time exploring the classroom, sharing new experiences together and learning about Jesus. We ended out the month with class Halloween parties. The children loved dressing up in costumes, singing silly songs and of course having lots of special party treats. The Playschool class Christian education unit for the month was the story of Baby Moses and their Bible verse came from Exodus 3:12 "God said... I will be with you". The PreSchool class learned about the 10 Commandments, Prayer and how Jesus helped people. We also talked about how Jesus is our helper and we can help people too.

November is here and the children are preparing their hearts for Thanksgiving. We have been learning about what it means to be thankful in PlaySchool and PreSchool. This month in Christian education the PlaySchool class is learning about King David, from boyhood to adult. David's story teaches us that God sees our heart. We will also learn that throughout his life, King David, in good times and bad, always remained thankful to God. Our Bible verse is "I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart" Psalm 9:1 The older children in the Preschool class started out the month continuing our discussions on how Jesus is our helper. Our verse was "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" Matthew 11:30. As we get closer to Thanksgiving our Bible Time each day is spent sharing all that we have to be thankful for. Our Bible verse is "Give thanks to God and praise His name" Psalm 100:4. All 3 classes will be having Thanksgiving Celebrations during their class time the week of Thanksgiving. During our Thanksgiving class parties we will learn the greatest gift we have to be thankful for is the gift of Jesus as we hear the story of His birth.

December is fast approaching and it brings with it the excitement of Christmas, parties, presents and snow! We will be taking time each day during our Bible Time to share Advent with the children. The children will learn of the Peace, Love, Joy and Hope that comes from Jesus.

**We will celebrate the Birth of Jesus with a Kingdom Kids Preschool Christmas program
"Come Let Us Adore Him" on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30pm at First Presbyterian Church.
Everyone is invited to come share the story of the first Christmas with all the children & their families.**

Thank you for your support and prayers for Kingdom Kids PreSchool, the children and their families.
If you have not had an opportunity to tour our building/classroom please let Jennifer know,
she is happy to give tours on Sundays during coffee hour.